

'Saw people being blown to pieces': eyewitnesses recount trail of horror

Shoppers, taxi drivers and shopkeepers, who helped rescue the wounded and rush them to hospital, recall witnessing body parts and vehicle debris scattered around; our buildings shook, windows rattled, say Chandni Chowk's residents; so severe was the impact that many felt it over a km away

Alisha Dutta
Shrimansi Kaushik
Suruchi Kumar
NEW DELHI

Shattered glass pieces, dismembered body parts, blood streaks and debris of vehicles lay scattered outside the Red Fort traffic intersection, where a high-intensity explosion killed at least 10 people and injured several others on Monday.

Many people at the site who escaped unhurt and helped in rescuing the wounded spoke about witnessing horrific scenes that left them thoroughly shaken.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dharmender, an eyewitness and resident of Greater Noida, said he was shopping on the footpath near the blast site when he heard a loud sound and saw nearby vehicles catch fire. "There was a lot of traffic on the road when a slow-moving car suddenly exploded into flames. Several taxis around it also caught fire," he said.

Mr. Dharmender saw two policemen stationed in the area rushing to rescue people, and he also joined them. "Together with the policemen, we dragged out seven injured drivers from their cars," said the Greater Noida resident.

Several police and Delhi Fire Services teams reached the spot within 10 minutes, he added.

All of them worked through thick smoke to look for the injured and rush them to safety.

'Was 10 feet away'
Another eyewitness, Bhupender Singh, a resident of Noida, said his commercial



Aftermath: Glass shards at the blast site. An eyewitness reported seeing a 'slow-moving car exploding into flames'. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

vehicle was about 10 feet away from the car in which the blast occurred.

"The traffic light had just turned green at the intersection when the blast happened. I quickly left my vehicle and ran towards the market," he said.

'Utter chaos'
"We were moving slowly when the blast happened. The window glass shattered, and we ran towards the market. It was very crowded, nobody knew what was happening," he added.

Recalling the gut-wrenching scenes, Mr.

Singh said, "We saw the bodies of two or three men blown to pieces."

Irfan, another eyewitness, said the scene was gut-wrenching.

"We saw severed hands, fingers, and even the steering wheel of a car blown off. Handcart pullers and taxi drivers were among those hit by the blast. Some of them didn't survive," he said.

Rajdhari Pandey, who lives in the vicinity, said the explosion was powerful enough to rattle his home. "There was a loud explosion so strong that the windows of our house

shook. I could see flames near the traffic intersection from my house and rushed to the scene. In no time, there were policemen everywhere. I saw them trying to save people from huge flames," said the Chandni Chowk resident.

'Leaving the city'

Shahdab from Uttar Pradesh, who runs a snack vend near Red Fort, said, "The scene was horrifying. The sound was deafening. It was not possible to identify the victims by their faces." He said the incident had left him terrified and that he intended to pack

his bags and leave for his hometown.

'A hand fell behind me'

"While I was standing and talking to someone, a body part... a hand, with the man's shirt still on it, fell right behind me," said Amit Mudgal, 36.

Recalling the terrifying moments following the explosion, he said, "The situation was unbelievable. There was a huge blast, and within seconds, the sky was covered in red smoke."

"Everyone was screaming and running for cover," Mr. Mudgal recalled.

He said the impact was so severe that human remains were scattered across the street. "As I moved towards the fire, I helped several people get into ambulances."

An injured eyewitness, who had a wound on his forehead, said the explosion appeared to have originated from a car parked nearby. "I am an autorickshaw driver. There was a car in front of my autorickshaw. I don't know how it happened, but something in that car suddenly exploded," he said.

Another resident said, "I was at the gurdwara (Sis Ganj Sahib) when I heard a strong sound. We couldn't make out what it was, but it was quite loud."

A shopkeeper nearby said the tremors were powerful enough to shake entire buildings. "I had come to buy something when I heard the blast. The whole shop trembled," he said.

Manoj, who runs a snack vend near Jama Masjid, said he could feel the intensity of the blast from over a kilometre away. "I was having food when we suddenly felt the blast in our chests. It was that strong," he said.

'People were lying still'

"I rushed to the spot and saw people screaming, some lying motionless. There was an autorickshaw driver badly injured; he was taken to a hospital."

Videos shared by the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association revealed the magnitude of the blast.

A mangled body could be seen lying on a vehicle, while another clip showed a body on the road.

(With inputs from PTI)



Taking stock: Union Home Minister Amit Shah visits Lok Nayak Hospital to meet the blast victims on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Outside Lok Nayak Hospital, kin battle rush, confusion

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

jured in the blast, said a stranger called him to inform him about the tragic incident.

"Sameer is in the ICU. We still don't know how bad his situation is," Mr. Danish said.

Sudheer Sharma, a resident of Rohtas Nagar in Shahdara, said his son, Ankush Sharma, was critically injured in the explosion and is battling for his life in the ICU.

"My son went to visit the Gauri Shankar temple with his friend Rahul Kaushik. While Rahul was sent home after stitches on his head, Ankush is fighting for his life," he said, adding that his son worked at a jewellery shop.

'Not back home'

Lokesh from Amroha in Hasanpur, Uttar Pradesh, had come to meet his relatives at the hospital who were admitted there.

After leaving the hospital, he was crossing the Red Fort area when he got caught in the blast.

Four hours later, his relative, Sandeep Aggarwal, was looking for information on him. "I came to the hospital because he has not come back home," he said.

Several people claimed that there was no clear communication at the hospital about which gate to enter. "We just want to know if our family members are alive," one of them said.

(With inputs from PTI)



Remains of the day: Officers from various security agencies examining the spot. PTI



Distracted: A woman, along with her son, looking for her husband. ANI

CM visits hospital; Kejriwal flags 'negligence' in security arrangements

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Education Minister Ashish Sood visited the Lok Nayak Hospital on Monday night to meet those injured in the blast, as well as the doctors, to assess the situation.

"The incident of the car explosion near the Red Fort is extremely distressing and alarming. I express my deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in this tragic accident. I pray to God that the injured recover swiftly. Every possible assistance is being ensured for the affected people. Teams from

the Delhi Police, NSG, NIA, and FSL are working together to conduct a thorough investigation into the entire matter," Ms. Gupta said on X before visiting the premier medical facility.

'Beware of rumours'

"I appeal to all Delhi residents to beware of rumours and maintain peace. Please rely only on official information issued by the police and administration," she said.

Earlier in the day, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged negligence in security arrangements.

AAP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh blamed Pakistan for the blast.

"Only Pakistan could

"The news of the explosion near the Red Fort is extremely alarming. It is reported that some people have also lost their lives in it, which is extremely tragic. The police and government should immediately investigate how this explosion occurred and whether there is any larger conspiracy behind it. Negligence regarding Delhi's security cannot be tolerated," Mr. Kejriwal said in a post on X.

'Attack on our pride'

"AAP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh blamed Pakistan for the blast. "Only Pakistan could



Reaching out: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Home Minister Ashish Sood interacting with the injured at Lok Nayak Hospital; (right) Forensic Science Laboratory officials inspecting the blast spot. ANI



carry out such a despicable act. By announcing a ceasefire, Modiji has emboldened the Pakistani terrorists. Those who have taken innocent lives must

be eliminated. The attack near the Red Fort is an attack on the symbol of our pride. The nation is not safe in [Narendra] Modi's hands. May God grant peace to the souls of those who lost their lives," he said in a post on X.

Condemning the blast, senior AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said in a post on X, "The news of the explosion in Delhi is extremely concerning. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured and for the safety of all citizens in Delhi and across the country. In such times, maintaining peace and restraint is our greatest strength - terror and fear can only be defeated through our unity."

Cyclone Montha damage pegged at ₹6,384 cr. in Andhra Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau

VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government has appealed to the Centre for generous assistance to help the State recover from the devastation caused by Cyclone Montha, which inflicted losses far exceeding initial estimates.

The total damage has been pegged at ₹6,384 crore and the State has sought ₹901.4 crore as immediate relief from the Union government.

Timings

DELHI

TUESDAY, NOV. 11
RISE 06:40 SET 17:30
RISE 23:22 SET 12:31

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12
RISE 06:41 SET 17:29
RISE 00:00 SET 13:08

THURSDAY, NOV. 13
RISE 06:42 SET 17:29
RISE 00:23 SET 13:41

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 28 12
Safdarjung 28 12
Palam 25 12

Delhi Palam Today
26°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable with light breeze. Night will be very cool. Pollution level will be severe.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be very cool. Dry weather to prevail.

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Officials suspended over 'VIP treatment' at Bengaluru prison

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Following allegations of "VIP treatment" being extended to some inmates at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, the Karnataka government on Monday transferred Chief Superintendent of Prisons K. Suresh, while two junior officials were suspended.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara announced that for the first time, the Bengaluru Central Jail would be overseen by an IPS officer to ensure strict supervision and accountability.

Anshu Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Prisons, was transferred and posted with immediate effect as Chief Superintendent of the prison.

Addressing reporters af-

ter a high-level review meeting, Dr. Parameshwara said that two other officials had been suspended in connection with the incident.

"The Superintendent of Prisons, Imam Sab Myagri, along with Assistant Superintendent Ashok Bhajantri have been suspended with immediate effect," he said.

The Home Department sought an explanation from the officials and the response was not satisfactory and hence action was taken, he added.

Senior BJP leaders, including Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok and State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra, were detained by the police on Monday after they staged a protest in Bengaluru over the issue.

SC to hear plea seeking contempt action against Telangana Speaker

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on November 17 will hear a petition seeking contempt proceedings against the Telangana Speaker for allegedly not complying with its direction to decide disqualification pleas against 10 Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress.

On July 31, a Bench headed by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai had directed the Assembly Speaker to decide in three months the matter of the disqualification of 10 BRS MLAs. On Monday, a lawyer mentioned the contempt petition for urgent hearing, saying the speaker had not acted within the three-month deadline. "List it next Monday," Chief Justice Gavai said.

Expressing concern over the delay, the counsel said the respondents were "dragging the proceedings till the end of the month for obvious reasons", an apparent reference to Chief Justice Gavai's retirement on November 23. "The Supreme Court will not close after the 24th of November," the Chief Justice said.

No proceedings yet

The counsel representing the petitioners also submitted that no proceedings had been conducted since the court's July 31 order. "The MLAs are still continuing... Your lordships had held that if any MLA was trying to protract the proceedings, an adverse inference would be drawn. Two petitions are pending. The Speaker has not touched them," the counsel said.

Court sets aside order to probe Kapil Mishra's role in 2020 Delhi riots

Ishita Mishra

NEW DELHI

In a major relief for Delhi Law Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kapil Mishra, a sessions court on Monday set aside a trial court order directing the Delhi police to investigate his alleged role in the 2020 north-east Delhi riots.

Special judge (PC Act) Dig Vinay Singh of the Rouse Avenue Courts quashed Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Vaibhav

Chaurasia's April 1 order, saying "...The impugned order is jurisdictionally flawed and legally unsustainable and must be set aside."

"Judicial orders, especially those affecting rights and potentially affecting someone's liberty, must be unambiguous. Any such order that could impact someone's rights and liberty must be explicit and free from conflicting interpretations," stated the sessions court.

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REAL ESTATE

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IN BRIEF



M.P. Cabinet approves hike of ₹250 in Ladli Behna allowance

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on Monday approved a hike of ₹250 in the monthly allowance to eligible women under the Ladli Behna scheme, taking the amount to ₹1,500 per month from November onwards. The decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. Mr. Yadav had earlier announced that the increased amount would be given from Deepavali. While an additional ₹250 was given to each beneficiary in October for the festivals, the amount has now been increased permanently. As part of the scheme, more than 1.26 crore women between 21 and 60 years of age, and having an annual family income of less than ₹2.5 lakh, receive a monthly allowance from the State government.

Azharuddin takes charge as Minister of Minority Affairs

Congress leader Mohammed Azharuddin took charge as Minister of Minority Affairs and Public Enterprises at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat in Hyderabad on Monday. The former cricketer was sworn in as a Minister on October 31. Mr. Azharuddin is the 16th member of the Council of Ministers. His name was cleared for nomination to the Legislative Council under the Governor's quota in August. Speaking to reporters, Mr. Azharuddin thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Ministers for giving him a berth in the Cabinet.

Panjab University students stage protest for Senate polls; police resort to lathi charge

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Several students of Panjab University (PU) on Monday staged a protest demanding the announcement of Senate elections, which have not taken place for more than a year.

Students - protesting under the banner of 'Panjab University Bachao Morcha' - were seen jostling with police personnel, breaking through barricades, and scaling the university's gates to enter the campus. The police resorted to mild lathi charge to control the situation.

The protests come even as PU authorities have submitted a detailed Senate poll schedule for approval to the Vice-President, the university's Chancellor.

Vice-Chancellor Renu Vig had appealed to all students and campus groups



Students protesting on Panjab University campus in Chandigarh on Monday. Farmers' unions have extended support to the students. PTI

to withdraw the proposed protest and help maintain peace and normalcy.

The protest comes close on the heels of the Union Ministry of Education on November 7 withdrawing its October 28 order notifying the reconstitution and recomposition of the university's governing bodies - Senate and Syndicate.

Political parties hit out at the BJP-led Centre, accusing it of attempting to

capture the educational institution. Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa said the protest stems from "genuine fear that the Central government is trying to strip Punjab of its historic university".

Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh criticised the Centre for not announcing the poll dates. The Shiromani Akali Dal demanded that the Centre initiate steps to hold the elections.

Delhi pollution crisis: CPCB fails to update data; air quality continues to be 'very poor'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Monday did not release the daily air quality bulletin for the country which is usually done around 4 p.m. every day, which is considered the day's Air Quality Index (AQI).

The hourly AQI data, which is available on the CPCB's mobile application, was also not available after 12 p.m. on Monday. As per the 24-hour average data, which is updated every hour on the mobile app, the AQI stood at 345 (very poor) at 12 p.m.

Back after gap

After the hourly data not being available on the mobile



Children enjoying as an anti-smog gun sprays water to curb air pollution at India Gate in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

app for at least eight hours, the 24-hour average AQI at 10 p.m. stood at 391 (very poor). The daily national bulletin was not released till 10 p.m.

There have been similar 'glitches' in the CPCB data

during the past one month. The CPCB did not give any explanation for the unavailability of the data. "The air quality is very likely to be in the 'very poor' category from 11.11.2025 to 13.11.2025. The outlook for the subse-

quent 6 Days: The air quality is likely to be in the 'very poor' category," said the Central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi'.

An AQI between 51 and 100 is "satisfactory", 101 and 200 is termed as "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe", as per the CPCB.

Pollution factors

Every winter, air pollution spikes in Delhi-NCR and many parts of the larger Indo-Gangetic plains, mainly due to meteorological factors such as lower wind speed and a drop in temperature. Pollution from stubble burning during October-November, and bursting of firecrackers worsens it.

Children are playing in a smoggy New Delhi. The air quality is likely to be in the 'very poor' category, said the Central government's Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi'.

Her counsel said attributes of her persona, including her images, were being misused without any authorisation from her and that merchandise featuring her pictures was being sold.

The counsel said that technological tools such as

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday protected the personality rights of actor and Samajwadi Party's Rajya Sabha member Jaya Bachchan. The court was hearing Ms. Bachchan's plea stating several social media accounts, YouTube channels and websites were misusing her name and persona for commercial gains.

Images misused

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The court, however, said that it was not inclined to pass a restraining order against a private entity sell-

The Hindu Bureau
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Mamata terms electoral roll revision 'super emergency', seeks stay on ongoing drive

SIR disrupting governance by keeping officials busy, preventing govt. from functioning, says West Bengal CM; she hits out at EC, calls drive in poll-bound State *votebandi*, links it to unnatural deaths

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday called for a stay on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying it would be impossible to conclude the drive within two months in poll-bound States.

West Bengal is among the States due to go to the polls next year.

"You are keeping officials busy intentionally, so that the government cannot function for three months. This is a super emergency... I still feel that there should be a stay (on the process of SIR). This is a deliberate attempt to malign people," Ms. Banerjee said while speaking to journalists in north Bengal.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson likened the SIR to *notebandi*. "The BJP regime at the Centre is harassing people in the name of SIR. Just as demonetisation was *notebandi*, SIR is *votebandi*," she said.



West Bengal CM and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee with party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee at an anti-SIR rally on Nov. 4. FILE PHOTO

Ms. Banerjee added that the BJP could send her to jail or "cut my throat" for speaking out but they could "not curb the rights of the people to exercise their vote".

She also targeted the Election Commission (ECI) and said that the poll body had been reduced to doing the Centre's bidding.

"When T.N. Seshan was the (Chief) Election Commissioner, he had the courage to say, 'no'. Now everything is, 'yes, sir'."

Amid talk of Bangladeshis fleeing the State owing to the SIR, the Chief Minister said that a fake narrative about infiltrators was deliberately being created. "Discuss the infiltrators in Bihar, where your government is in power," she remarked.

Giving no quarter
The Chief Minister's criticism comes a week after the SIR process began in the State. The ECI had distributed over 5.15 crore en-

umeration forms by Sunday. Ms. Banerjee hit the streets in Kolkata on November 4, protesting against SIR and said that she would not allow a single valid voter's name to be struck off the voter rolls.

Deaths due to drive'
Ms. Banerjee also spoke about the deaths "due to SIR", saying, "So many have died, not a single condolence message from the Election Commission."

Even before the process started, the TMC leadership had blamed the SIR for "several unnatural deaths and suicide attempts".

Meanwhile, Asha Soren from Dhamiakhali in West Bengal's Hooghly district and her daughter were pronounced dead at SSKM Hospital in Kolkata on Monday. The TMC blamed deaths on the SIR.

The cause of another death, of a 70-year-old man in Nadia on Monday, was attributed by the deceased's family to "SIR-related anxiety".

Chhattisgarh: Cong. flags gap in SIR, asks EC for more time

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAJPUR

The Congress's Chhattisgarh unit has expressed several concerns over the special intensive revision (SIR) process under way in the State, and sought an extension of the one-month deadline for document submission and verification.

Under the second phase of the SIR, enumeration forms are being distributed in 12 States and Union Territories, including Chhattisgarh. In the first phase earlier this year, the exercise was conducted in Bihar, and faced sharp criticism.

Paddy harvesting
Addressing a press conference in Raipur on Monday, senior Congress leaders emphasised the demand for transparency, echoing concerns of non-National Democratic Alliance parties in Bihar, and also listed paddy harvesting as a key local factor that makes the one-month window "insufficient".

They also questioned how the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was speaking on behalf of the Election Commission and answering questions addressed to the poll body. "The SIR work should be done with the right intention," said former Minister and convenor of the Congress SIR Monitoring Committee for Chhattisgarh Mohan Markam.

Former State Congress president and SIR committee co-convenor Dhanendra Sahu said that currently, the State is in the midst of the paddy harvesting season, following which farmers will have to take their paddy to farmers' societies to sell the produce, making an extension necessary.



SIR being used as a weapon to intimidate the DMK: Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUCHI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Monday that the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was being used as a "political weapon" against the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), but it will "never work in Tamil Nadu", where the party is in power.

'Won't work in T.N.'
"Our enemies use the Income Tax [Department] and CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] to threaten us. Now, they have taken up the SIR as a weapon to destroy the DMK. It may work in other States, but as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, with the DMK here, it will never work," he asserted. He was speaking at the wedding of Srirangam MLA M. Palaniandy's son at Somarasampet in Tiruchi.

'DMK a movement'
Mr. Stalin said the DMK was not merely a political party but "a movement in constant motion". "Whether we are in power or not, our *iyakkam* (movement) never stops. Everyone knows how active we are," he said, referring to his ongoing constituency-wise review meetings under the *Udanpirappu Vaa* initiative. "I have reviewed 80 constituencies so far, and will complete all of them soon," he added.

Court backs Jaya Bachchan, protects her personality rights

The Hindu Bureau
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Jaya Bachchan's counsel said the Rajya Sabha member's images were being misused without any authorisation from her. FILE PHOTO

Artificial Intelligence were used to create videos having a likeness to her client.

Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said that she would pass an order against the infringing entities.

The court, however, said that it was not inclined to pass a restraining order against a private entity sell-

ing Jaya and Amitabh Bachchan's posters of the 1973 movie *Abhimaan* on Amazon.

The Delhi High Court had earlier passed similar orders protecting the personality rights of her husband Amitabh Bachchan, son Abhishek Bachchan and daughter-in-law Aishwarya Rai Bachchan.

OBITUARY &
REMEMBRANCE

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U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online e-tenders for execution of "Operation and Maintenance of Water Testing Laboratory at 245 MLD WTP Campus, Siddharth Vihar, Ghaziabad," under Deposit Programme. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidders.

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If anyone finds these ID cards, kindly return them to the undersigned. We have lodged a F.I.R. regarding the loss, and any misuse of these ID cards will be treated as an offence.

Contact: +91 95570 27272

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
GANGA JAL PROJECT UNIT,
U.P.JAL NIGAM (URBAN)

Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad

Email: pmgangajalz@yahoo.com

Letter No.: 1850/Nivida/151

Date: 10.11.2025

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U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online e-tenders for execution of "Operation and Maintenance of Water Testing Laboratory (NABL Accredited) at 120 MLD WTP Campus, Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad," under Deposit Programme. Bids are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidders.

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LABOUR WELFARE AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
COMMISSIONERATE OF LABOUR

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Tender is invited by the Director, Tamil Nadu Academy of Construction, towards the selection of Training Provider to impart online skill training to 10,000 children of registered construction workers in Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board.

The Tender document can be downloaded at free of cost from <https://tntenders.gov.in/> 11.11.2025, 2020 a.m.Last date and time for online submission of Tender through <https://tntenders.gov.in/> is 01.12.2025 till 03.00 p.m.Queries if any will be addressed through email - tncltenders@gmail.com. Kindly refer to the Tender document for instructions and information.

The Director (FAC), Tamil Nadu Academy of Construction, Thiyur - 103.

DIPR/6057/Tender/2025

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Bhoranji Division HPPWD, Bhoranji on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the Item rate/ Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class for the works as detailed below on the table:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Starting date for downloading Bid	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of link road 4,27,55,008/-	8,55,100/-	14-11-2025	19-11-2025	

Tikker Manhasa to Gouta via Sangawar Samozi Km 2940 i/c 1 No. Bridge at Km. Under NABARD RIDF- XXXI (SH:- Removal of formation deficiency, C/O R/wall & Gabions wall, M/T works, PCC V-shape drain , Cross drained work, road furniture, C/O Paver block, C/O Rain Shelter)

The bidders are advised to note all details of tenders, from the department website Executive Engineer, Bhoranji Division, HPPWD Bhoranji, Pin Code 176045 Tel. No. 01972-266099

HIM SUCHANA e-mail : eeppwd-bhoranji-hp@gov.in

HP /4272/25-26 For and on behalf of Governor of H.P.

Ref No.33857/73/IT-DMG/2025 Dated: 10.11.2025

Request for Proposal (RFP)

The Director of Mines and Geology, Telangana State invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from interested bidders for Empannelment of Agencies for Supply, Installation, Integration and Maintenance of ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) Systems in Mining Leases, Quarry Leases, and Mineral Dealer Areas in Telangana State.

Interested may visit Mines & Geology Department Website (<https://mines.telangana.gov.in/MinesAndGeology/Views/Index.aspx>) to download the RFP Document (free of cost).

The RFP along with Application shall be filed on or before 11.11.2025 by 5.00 P.M. in the Office of the Director of Mines and Geology in the address mentioned herein. For further details contact the telephone number mentioned herein.

Sd/- Director of Mines & Geology(FAC)

DIPR.R.O.No.823-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt:10.11.2025

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

2nd Floor, My Home Sarovar Plaza, Secretariat Road, Saifabad, Hyderabad-500063

Website: www.mines.telangana.gov.in Email: dmgt-mines@telangana.gov.in

Telephone No: 040-2321765/9866633414

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Pratap Vihar, Ghaziabad

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Letter No.: 1851/Nivida/152

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Editorial

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What South Asia wants from COP30

New horizons

Developing countries must take the lead in addressing the climate crisis

The 30th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) has begun in Brazil's Belém.

Coming 10 years after the historic Paris Agreement, when all signatory members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) committed to a common goal of keeping temperatures below 2°C and "as far as possible below 1.5°C", this would have been an ideal platform to take stock of the achievements so far and ramp up ambition. Instead, there is a visible sense of disarray. The United States has, yet again, withdrawn from the Paris Agreement (though not the UNFCCC) and from 2017, this break seems decisively more hostile. Wielding threats on tariffs and brinkmanship, the U.S. Administration seems actively committed to derail steps toward emission cuts, newer ways to fund adaptation and adopting clean technology. For instance, it has played a major role in recent months in scuttling a resolution by members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) into transitioning the shipping industry away from fossil fuel use. Following Bill Gates's shift from being a vocal advocate of curbing emissions to one who no longer sees climate change as an existential threat, Mr. Trump announced it as a "vindication" of his position. There is a case that the U.S.'s isolationist policy is of diminishing relevance in an era when global investments in clean energy outpace fossil fuel investment and that businesses globally have seen the writing on the wall. But as the IMO example states, the U.S.'s abilities as a destabilising force remain formidable. That must be at the back of negotiators' minds when they began the 12-day deliberative sprint.

This COP is one of 'implementation', as the Brazil Presidency has emphasised. While the world's collective action is far short of what the Paris goals require, there is palpable optimism that the tenor of discussions from now on will visibly shift toward ironing out financial mechanisms for adaptation, preserving forests and strengthening carbon credit markets. It is likely that there will be a renewed discussion on how to make the United Nations' multilateral process more effective at delivering decisive outcomes and, perhaps, a debate on the creation of a 'climate council', as Brazil proposed earlier this year. All of this promises fresh energy and verve to a process that has come to be seen as ineffective in addressing the climate crisis. However, this is also an opportunity for the large developing economies – India, China, Brazil, and South Africa in particular – to stake claim to leadership. This might require a greater display of ambition and recalibration of past positions, particularly on financial contributions. Sans fireworks, India must begin an internal dialogue to place itself favourably for this nebulous future.

In free fall

Sudan's hopes for a return to democracy look dim

Sudan is no stranger to violence by paramilitary forces. Yet, the rape, pillage and mass killings carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in El-Fasher, after their capture of the city in the Darfur region in late October, were shocking even by Sudan's grim standards. The RSF, a predominantly Arab militia, known for its brutality against Sudan's African communities, unleashed a wave of atrocities, including a massacre at a maternity hospital. The RSF now controls five of Darfur's capitals, tightening its grip over the famine-stricken region. In a chilling demonstration of impunity, RSF militants posted footage of some of their crimes on social media. Born from the Arab supremacist Janjaweed militia in the early 2000s, the group had faced accusations of ethnic cleansing and genocide against non-Arab communities in Darfur. It laid siege to El-Fasher, the Sudanese army's last major stronghold in Darfur, 18 months ago, a blockade that triggered a famine in the region. More than 12 million people have been displaced since Sudan's civil war broke out in April 2023, and tens of thousands killed. According to UN experts, the country is now facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis. While both the army and the RSF have been accused of war crimes, the atrocities by the paramilitary force have increasingly been described as genocidal.

When the regime of dictator Omar al-Bashir fell in 2019, many hoped that Sudan was on the cusp of a new dawn. But hopes for a democratic transition were short lived as the military and the RSF jointly staged a coup in 2021. Mr. Bashir had raised the RSF out of the ranks of the Janjaweed and treated the group as his personal army. He used it to neutralise domestic opposition and as a parallel structure to the military. Yet, when the roots of the Bashir regime were shaken by public protests in 2019, the RSF turned against him. But once the military consolidated power in 2021 and insisted that the RSF integrate with the regular army, the alliance between the army and the RSF fell apart, plunging Sudan into civil war. Today, the military government, backed by Egypt, controls most of Sudan, while the RSF, supported by the UAE, dominates Darfur. Earlier this year, the army pushed the RSF out of Khartoum, the capital. But the fall of El-Fasher confirms that the militia remains entrenched in its stronghold. If the fighting continues, Sudan risks more death, destruction, and even a state collapse. The atrocities in El-Fasher should serve as a wake-up call for the international community. The war must be brought to an end. For that, the backers of both the military and the militia should press for talks instead of sending more weapons into Sudan.

A decade after the Paris Agreement, the climate crisis has only intensified. South Asia bears the brunt as monsoon floods, landslides and heatwaves. These shocks unfold amid a fractured global order – multilateralism under strain, climate pledges weakened, and trade protectionism rising. The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, yet again, has tested the credibility of global processes. Yet no single actor, however powerful, can halt collective action. Others must and are stepping forward.

Small island-states, emerging economies and coalitions of the willing have taken the lead. Increasingly, this mantle is passing to South Asia, home to nearly two billion people facing an extraordinary diversity of climate risks. Inaction is not an option.

There have been wide consultations (as COP30 Special Envoy for South Asia) with government and civil society representatives across Bhutan, Nepal, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. We have listened to localised concerns, recognised many areas of convergence for messages that negotiators are taking to COP30 in Brazil, and identified several opportunities for regional climate cooperation.

South Asia's concerns and priorities

We realised that South Asia's response is pragmatic and collaborative: regional coalitions, investment in renewable energy, climate-resilient agriculture and integration of climate adaptation into development planning. Its climate leadership may be emergent, but it is driven by necessity, experience and the moral imperative to protect its people and signal to the world that action cannot wait. The discussions yielded five concerns and priorities of South Asian countries.

First, implementation remains the Achilles heel of climate action. The gap between what is promised in action and finance, and what is delivered, is glaring. Whether it is in implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or delivering finance, the challenge remains. So far, only 65 countries have submitted enhanced NDCs. Further, a recent study by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) revealed that out of the 203 initiatives assessed (launched since 2015), approximately 5% of the initiatives have achieved their stated goals. This underscores the need for the Global South to harness regional cooperation to create impactful and targeted initiatives.

Climate pledges require robust governance, including a clear plan and timeline for reporting progress. Willing countries can, first, strengthen a regional forum to build a common stance and advance shared action that can be recognised at platforms such as the G-20, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and BRICS. Moreover, ensure governance structures are inclusive, giving voice to the underrepresented, such as subnational governments, local



Arunabha Ghosh
is Special Envoy to COP30 representing South Asia, and the CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)



Jhalak Aggarwal
is Programme Associate, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

There is a need for mutual clarity, mutual cooperation and mutual implementation on climate action, as consultations across South Asia – a region that is bearing the brunt of the climate crisis – show

communities and women. Also, strengthen regional cooperation by sharing knowledge, aligning priorities and scaling technology solutions across borders. Initiatives such as India's Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and Nepal's Sagarmatha Sambaad focused on mountain vulnerabilities, show how focused partnerships can advance both national and regional goals.

Second, climate adaptation must stand shoulder-to-shoulder with emission mitigation. According to the ADB, South Asia could experience an increase in days exceeding 35°C – from around 100 to approximately 200 annually – by 2100. The region-specific economic and non-economic impacts are diverse – Nepal's glacial lake outburst flood, coastal threats in the Maldives, India facing sweltering heatwaves, and Sri Lanka's emerging drylands and water stress.

The support that is needed

What is required is adequate technical, institutional and financial support to develop and implement plans domestically. Mainstreaming locally-led adaptation practices can also complement scientific innovation and strengthen local ownership. Internationally, deliberations must proceed to reach consensus on fundamental, simple, and non-burdensome indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation. These indicators must be multi-dimensional and adaptable for use at regional and national levels, focusing on tracking progress rather than penalising countries with limited capacity.

Third, ambitious action must begin by investing in trust. The past is marred by delayed finances, broken promises and diluted commitments from developed countries. The current geopolitics is not conducive to an ambitious climate outcome. Further, an easy exit from a climate agreement not only leads to increased emissions but also undermines trust in the process. Analysis by the CEEW shows that developed countries are not on track to meet their 2030 NDC target. Hence, developed countries must fulfil their existing pledges and build momentum with ambitious NDCs aligned with 1.5°C, reinstating faith in multilateralism.

Fourth, deliver climate finance that is predictable (sustainable funding), adequate (meets the needs and balanced with mitigation), fairly distributed and accessible (easy, low-transaction cost access with priority for vulnerable countries), and non-debt inducing (grants and highly concessional financing instruments).

For this, the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T (\$1.3 trillion) must be underpinned by clear pathways: who delivers, how much, by when, and with what accountability. Without clarity, the \$300 billion adaptation target by 2035 is meaningless. South Asian countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, must call for a tripling of adaptation finance with operational clarity. And, South Asia's needs are urgent.

Dedicated regional allocations from multilateral funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Loss and Damage Fund, and the Adaptation Fund can simplify and amplify access to predictable finance. Most importantly, design and launch a 'South Asian resilience finance facility' to mobilise and channel innovative finance to support domestic priorities and fast-track nature-based solutions.

Fifth, climate transition cannot be left to nation-states alone; non-state actors must become engines of scale. Non-state actors such as sub-national entities, the private sector, civil society, youth, academic institutions, as well as businesses can supplement state efforts toward enhancing ambition. The private sector can unlock finance. Sub-national entities can align with domestic goals and deliver. Civil society can conduct independent assessments to expedite the process of bridging domestic capacity gaps and, regionally, develop a regional compendium to share promising traditional knowledge, practices, and systems across the region. Youth can mobilise urgency, innovation and intergenerational equity into climate solutions. Businesses can mainstream sustainability into markets and value chains. If done rightly, it can reinforce a cycle of verified action that builds trust and accountability within the multilateral climate governance.

Cut off from technology flows

Ultimately, transformation hinges on the convergence of finance, technology and innovation. There are several examples of innovative solutions being deployed; however, fewer examples demonstrate their ability to deliver systemic transformations. Most of the South Asian countries are still largely excluded from international technology flows. A recent report by the CEEW shows fewer than one in three initiatives focus exclusively on Africa, Asia, or Latin America – most span multiple regions or are often clubbed with countries in the Global North. Financially, it is imperative to channel capital towards the climate agenda through blended finance instruments, debt-for-nature swaps and market mechanisms with an explicit focus on vulnerable regions. Digital innovation, including artificial intelligence, big data, digital public infrastructure (DPI), blockchain and remote sensing, can unlock new forms of data cooperation and efficiency.

The time for promises is now over. Delivery will be the only currency of trust at COP30. That delivery must rest on three mutuals: mutual clarity (about responsibilities and pathways), mutual cooperation (that recognises both vulnerabilities and opportunities), and mutual implementation (turning promises into practice, across borders and sectors). South Asia is leading, innovating and demanding that multilateralism be restored to credibility through delivery.

The views expressed are personal

Celebrating a sage king, a celebration of India-Bhutan ties

The former King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, turns 70 on November 11, 2025. The father of the current King of Bhutan is popularly known as K4 (the fourth King of the Wangchuck line), while his son Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, who sits on the throne at present, is referred to as K5.

Jigme Singye Wangchuck is held in great esteem, awe, pride and reverence by his people who often call him the Bodhisattva King. He ruled Bhutan from the age of 17 years till he abdicated in 2006 in favour of his son.

He is revered almost like a Buddha because he ruled wisely, honestly and literally dragged Bhutan into the 21st century, modernising it in many ways. Now, to mark his 70th birth anniversary, there is a huge celebration in Thimphu on November 11, for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting India's mountainous neighbour.

Two nations, their close ties
Mr. Modi has always given much importance to India's relationship with Bhutan. In 2014, on being elected Prime Minister, he had not merely spoken about Neighbourhood First but had also made Bhutan the first foreign country he visited. Now too, Mr. Modi realises the tremendous significance that the birthday celebrations has for the people of Bhutan and is ensuring that he is with them in this time of joy. His visit is an apt signal of how close the people of India are to the people of Bhutan.

It was K4 who further strengthened Bhutan's relationship with India, during his reign as king, exhibiting great understanding that independent India was a close friend of his nation for which all threats to its independence, sovereignty or way of



Gautam Bambawale
is a former Indian Ambassador to Bhutan and is currently Trustee of the Pune International Centre

Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who turns 70 today, has helped nurture both the modernisation of the mountain kingdom and its relations with India

life came from its north and not from the other direction. It was Jigme Singye Wangchuck who got India's Border Roads Organisation to build, operate and maintain the road network of his country. Today, Bhutanese firms are capable of doing this on their own and have rightly been tasked with this. Again, it was Jigme Singye Wangchuck who saw the potential of generating electricity from Bhutan's rivers and supplying it to India, thereby enabling a steady revenue stream for his nation, which in turn has lifted incomes there.

Hydropower diplomacy

Hydropower cooperation between India and Bhutan has, over the years, developed into one of the strongest and most significant pillars of the relationship between the two countries. Therefore, it is apt, symbolic of this friendship and significant in itself, that the Punatsangchhu II hydroelectric project will be formally inaugurated by Mr. Modi and K5 during the trip. The 1,020 MW project has been generating electricity for some months now, helping Bhutan in further raising its economic profile.

The Punatsangchhu II project, like many of its predecessors, was constructed as a cooperative venture between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan, with India providing the initial capital for it – this is paid off by the project from the income stream generated by the sale of electricity to India at rates which are competitive but adjusted every few years to reflect current realities.

This model has worked well till now but it has been decided that in future, the two countries must tap other sources of capital for such hydropower projects. Now that private capital is

readily available in adequate quantity, future projects are to be done by private firms of India in collaboration with Bhutanese companies. Significantly, Tata Power and Adani Power have already taken up a few of the projects on offer in Bhutan.

India continues to provide development assistance to Bhutan beyond hydropower whether it is for community development projects or larger schemes that range from infrastructure development to upgrading older institutions and even monasteries.

Issues of national security

K5 continues to seek his father's – K4's – advice on matters of national security. Whether it pertains to the territorial integrity of Bhutan or to the operational readiness of the Royal Bhutan Army (RBA), K4 is always consulted by his son. K4 has a deep understanding of not merely India and how its democracy functions but also about Communist China, what motivates and drives that nation and the implications it has for Bhutan-China relations.

India will always be grateful to K4 for having personally led Operation All Clear in December 2003 where the RBA drove out several hundred cadres of Indian insurgent groups that had taken shelter in the jungles of Bhutan just across Assam and West Bengal. On India's side of the border, the Indian Army was able to easily arrest these Indian insurgent groups and proceed against them as in the law.

Thus, November 11 is not merely the birthday celebration of a sage and wise former King of Bhutan. Mr. Modi's presence at these events in Thimphu also makes it a celebration of India-Bhutan friendship and cooperation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Credibility and trust

The recent resignations of BBC's leadership following the 'mis-editing' of a speech by U.S. President Donald Trump underscore a core truth: news agencies are not only conveyors of facts but also the custodians of trust. Correspondents and editors must adhere to the core principles of accuracy, context and impartiality. When these are compromised – as when

snippets are splice-edited to mislead – the consequence is not just embarrassment but also the erosion of institutional integrity. The lesson for all media is this: ethical lapses ripple outward, undermining democracy's information infrastructure and public confidence alike ('World' page – Panel, November 10). **Gopalaswamy J., Chennai**

Shroud of air pollution
At this time of the year, Delhi, once again, finds itself caught in the throes of severe air pollution. It is distressing to see the citizens of Delhi suffer year after year from toxic air, despite the capital being home to the nation's top political leadership. For over a decade, the issue has been discussed and debated, yet real action remains missing. Smog

control towers, often non-functional, have done little to clean the air. This reflects poorly on governance. The continued neglect of such a public health crisis shows the lack of sincerity and responsibility among politicians and officials. Politicians need to make public welfare the guiding principle of politics and governance, rising above narrow interests to serve

the larger public good.
V. Nagarajan, Chennai

Pets and pests

I write this letter as a 90-year-old retired veterinarian. The entire discourse about stray dogs and pets reminds me of the adage, "to be unable to see the wood for the trees". The issue is not about pets but about pests. The significant difference in the numbers of

stray dogs, from some thousands in 2018 to a lakh or more now, reveals the inefficacy of the present strategy. Human health and safety should be the priorities – there must be the culling of pests and the encouragement of only pets.
Dr. T.N. Varadharajan, Chennai

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Iraqi elections: An opportunity for India

The current obsession with the Bihar election on November 11 notwithstanding, India also needs to focus on another election taking place on the same day, 4,000 kilometres away, in Iraq.

Features and significance
While some systemic features of the sixth Iraqi parliamentary election are relatively easy to comprehend, others may make even hardened Bihar pollsters blink. There are 7,744 candidates for 329 seats with 32 parties and a large number of independents in the election based on proportional representation. Nearly 40% of candidates are below 40 years of age. In an otherwise patriarchal society, close to a third of the candidates are women, leveraging a quarter of seats reserved for them. The results might trigger months of horse-trading among the three sectarian groups, broadly based on Shia, Sunni, and Kurdish parties, before a majority coalition emerges. The incumbent Prime Minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, projects himself as a "Sushasan Babu", claiming to have completed over 2,582 long-delayed projects in his three-year rule. He has added a million new jobs to the already bloated bureaucracy. His detractors accuse him of being pro-American. The polity and electioneering are characterised by corruption, dispersal of freebies and rampant kleptocracy institutionalised by a disingenuous "Muhasasa" system that reserves nearly a thousand lucrative positions for the winning coalition. These flaws and the violent suppression of youth protests in 2019-20 have engendered popular apathy. Only 21 million of the 30 million eligible voters have registered, and less than 40% of the latter are likely to vote, resulting in nearly three-fourths absenteeism.

Nevertheless, the biometric voter I-cards are reportedly changing hands for around a hundred dollars. Thanks to numerous



Mahesh Sachdev
Retired Indian Ambassador specialising in the Arab world and oil issues

goons and ethno-sectarianism are more abundant than in Bihar's badlands. Kurdish separatism, lingering Islamic State and al-Qaeda terrorism, and Iranian patronage of several Iraqi Shia militias are additional complications. Further, the election boycott call by populist Shia leader Moqtada al-Sadr, whose party got the highest number of seats in the previous election, would leave the field to the ruling Shia Coordination Framework. While Mr. al-Sudani is widely expected to continue, the fractured Iraqi polity has resulted in a new Prime Minister after every past election. Nevertheless, after the tumultuous legacy of the Saddam era repression, wars, terrorism and sectarian strife, holding elections at regular intervals marks Iraq's return to imperfect democratic normalcy.

Second, the coming parliamentary elections have regional and even global significance in view of Iraq's geostrategic importance and status as OPEC's second-largest producer. During the past two decades of turmoil, the divided country has been an arena where the animosity between the U.S. and Iran played out. In case a decisive election results in stable governance, Iraq can resume its unencumbered sovereignty. It has already negotiated a withdrawal of the U.S.-led multinational force by September 2026, deployed since the 2003 invasion to oust Saddam Hussein. Iran is determined to maintain its stranglehold on Shia militias in Iraq, as well as use Iraq as a market and conduit for busting the U.S. sanctions. But Tehran has been significantly weakened by Israeli military actions over the past two years, which have attenuated Iranian military might, curbed its nuclear and missile capabilities, and decimated its regional proxies. The Trump administration's "maximum pressure" policies and "Snapback" of the UN sanctions have also hamstrung Iranian economy. Pro-Iran Iraqi militias have largely eschewed military

actions against the U.S. and Israel. A strong, nationalist elected government in Baghdad could take advantage of a weakened Iran to begin the delicate but crucial process of disarming the heavily armed militias by either co-opting them into regular armed forces or metamorphosing them into political parties. Similarly, Kurds leveraged the disarray in Baghdad to deepen their longstanding quest for autonomy through the 'Kurdistan Regional Government'. As Baghdad gets its political and security act in place, this process might get reversed.

The Iraqi oil and gas sector has remained largely unaffected by political and security flux, Iraq has been producing around 4.5 mbpd and exporting nearly 3.6 mbpd, with China and India being the top two customers in 2024. It claims 5.5 mbpd production capacity and has signed multiple agreements with Chinese, American, and other Western oil and gas majors to ramp up production to 7 mbpd by 2029. Reducing gas flaring is a priority to utilise it as a fuel for power generation.

India-Iraq ties

India had close ties with Iraq during the 1980s, with nearly \$10 billion worth of construction projects and oil exploration blocks. In 2024-25, total bilateral trade was \$33.35 billion, making Iraq our eighth largest trade partner, albeit with a balance of 9:1 in Iraq's favour due to our dependence on crude. As Russian oil supplies recede, Iraq is likely to resume its role as India's largest crude supplier, further tilting the trade imbalance. Once the electoral dust settles, India should rebalance its bilateral ties by prioritising highest level re-engagement. Apart from reviving the socio-economic complementarity, such synergy would ameliorate the emerging power vacuum in the northern Gulf. It would also show that the ties between our two democracies are not transactional, but based on mutual interests and shared values.

India could leverage Iraq's post-election stability to revive bilateral synergy

With 9 lakh dogs, Kerala will find it impossible to implement the Court's directive

STATE OF PLAY

K.S. Sudhi
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With about 9 lakh street dogs, Kerala is going to find it nearly impossible to comply with the Supreme Court's latest order directing States to relocate these animals from public spaces to dog pounds.

Last week, the Court directed local bodies across the country to remove "every stray dog found within the premises of an educational institution, hospital, sports complex, bus stand/depot, or railway station and to shift such animal/s to a designated shelter, after due sterilisation and vaccination, in accordance with the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023". The Court also said that the "stray dogs so picked up shall not be released back to the same location from which they were picked up." This is a clear departure from the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 that lay down a 'capture-sterilise-vaccinate-return' policy.

Challenges

While the order may appear sound from a public health and safety standpoint, it risks going unimplemented. There are immense infrastructural and human resource demands that this exercise entails. Stray dogs coexist with humans in public places where food is available. The removal of one pack from an area will not solve the issue, as the vacuum will be quickly filled by another group of dogs. In addition, there are also behavioural aspects of street dogs to be considered. Often compassionately called community dogs, they offer companionship to many people, which explains why there are so many prot-



ests against the order. Neither are there enough animal handlers to catch street dogs nor are there qualified veterinary surgeons, as specified in the Rules.

Kerala received particular attention in the three-member Bench's order, which cited media reports of stray dog bites across the State, including the case of a Class 3 student being bitten at a government lower primary school in Panamaram, Wayanad. The judgment also mentioned reports of dog bite incidents that took place at Ernakulam General Hospital, the KSRTC bus stand at Kottayam, and the railway station at Kannur.

Despite this challenge, every move to set up public service facilities – whether septicage and waste treatment plants, mobile towers, or ABC centres for dogs – has been greeted with stiff public resistance in Kerala. In such a scenario, it would be a real challenge for civic bodies to find secure and isolated places to set up dog pounds, considering the scarcity of suitable land and public opposition to such units. It would also be difficult for local bodies to establish ABC centres to carry out surgical procedures, as specified in the Rules.

The problem is not limited to Kerala. No local body in the country may be able to meet the expense for keeping and feeding the dogs in these centres on its own. The order,

which requires that dogs rounded up from public spaces not be returned after surgery, has effectively shifted their custody from the streets to the local authorities.

The huge expense required for setting up animal shelters and surgical centres, capturing and immunising animals, procuring vehicles for transporting animals, and running the centres could also hinder the efforts of civic bodies in their fight against rabies and dog bites. Without sufficient human and financial resources at their disposal, civic bodies cannot be expected to enthusiastically come forward to take up the challenge.

The order has also put brakes on the Kerala government's recent initiative to sterilise and vaccinate street dogs and return them to their original locations, as specified in the ABC Rules.

Problem with compliance

The Court has cautioned that any reported non-compliance with its orders would be viewed seriously.

It said that "penalties/consequences including but not limited to the initiation of suo moto contempt proceedings" would be imposed on erring officials. However, there are numerous practical problems in implementing the order, which means that the instructions of the Court risk being inadvertently flouted by the civic bodies.

While admitting that incidents of dog bites are on the rise and rabies-related deaths are being regularly reported from the States, a workable approach to tackle the menace could have been adopted. Removing dogs from public places to dog pounds is easier said than done in Kerala, which has a population density that is thrice the national average.

Capital owners gain, workers lose: the widening wealth gap

Between 1990 and 2024, the capital share of national income increased in 56% of countries

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

According to the Global Inequality Report, 83% of countries experience high income inequality, representing 90% of the world's population (**Chart 1**). A high level of income inequality corresponds to a Gini coefficient above 0.4. A Gini coefficient of 0 indicates perfect equality, while a value of 1 represents perfect inequality.

One of the main reasons a large share of the global population continues to live in highly unequal countries is the rising share of national income accruing to capital (through profits, rents, and dividends) compared to labour (through wages and salaries). Between 1990 and 2024, the capital share of national income increased in 56% of countries, covering 74% of the world's population. **Chart 2** shows the capital and labour share of the national income, globally.

Capital ownership itself is highly unequal. An estimated 85% of the world's population derives no income from capital. **Chart 3** shows the share of the population living in households with less than \$100 in annual capital income per person. In India, 97% of the population falls within this category. Even labour income is highly unequal. Between 2019 and 2024, average global CEO pay increased by 50%, while average worker's pay rose by less than 1%.

Because of this unequal accumulation of wealth, private wealth has far outpaced public wealth. As a result, several governments face significant net debts (**Chart 4**).

Such economic inequality also leads to social inequality within and across nations. For instance, in the U.S., African American women are more than twice as likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than white women, or women in Kerala in India (**Chart 5**).

Workers fall behind

Data for the charts were sourced from the G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality report

Chart 1: High, medium and low inequality countries

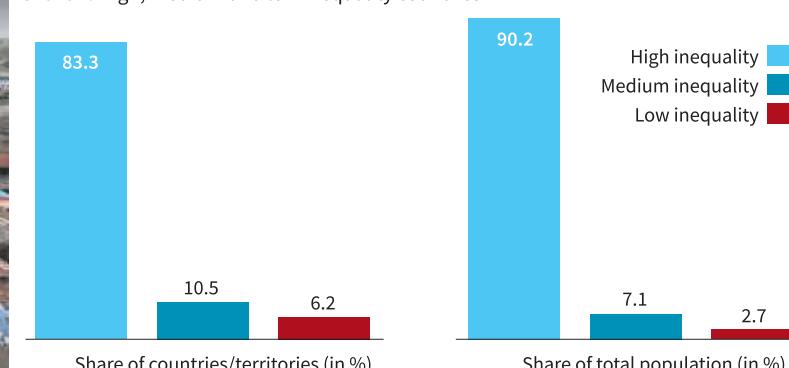


Chart 2: Capital and labour share of national income, 1980-2024

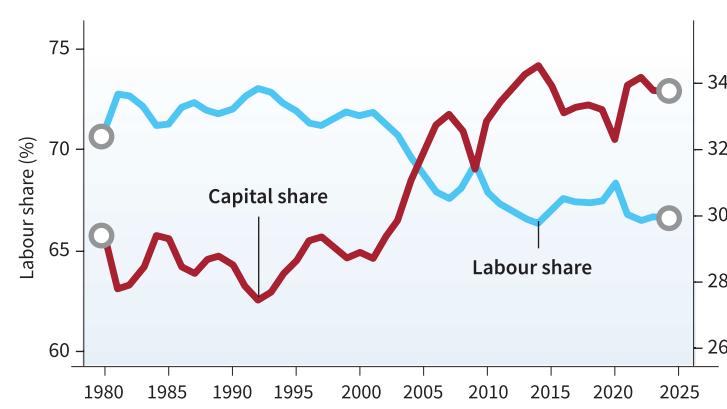


Chart 3: Percentage of population living in households with less than \$100 in capital income (including private pensions) per person, annually

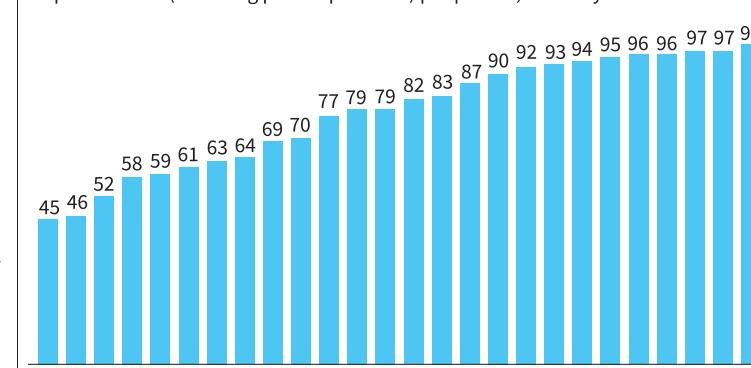


Chart 4: Public and private wealth, 1980-2024

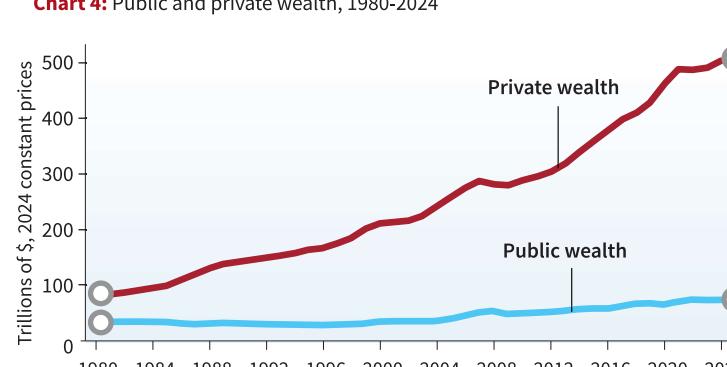
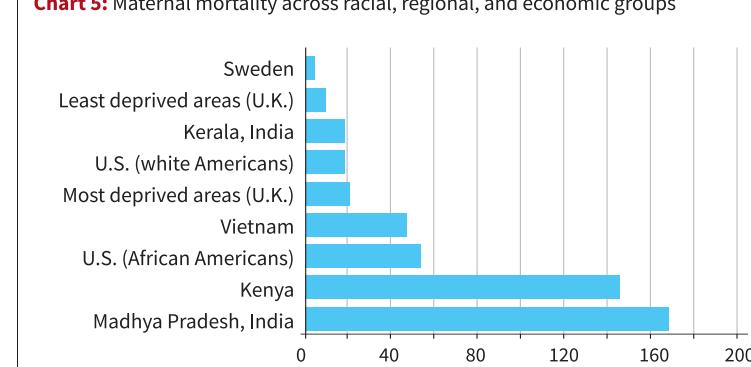


Chart 5: Maternal mortality across racial, regional, and economic groups



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 11, 1975

Angola becomes free

Luanda, Nov. 10: Portugal to-day proclaimed Angola independent from midnight to-night, and said it was leaving the war-torn territory without any sense of guilt.

The declaration, made here by the Portuguese High Commissioner, Admiral Leonel Cardoso, several hours before midnight, omitted to recognise any of the three warring liberation movements of the territory's new rulers.

"In the name of the President of the Portuguese Republic, I solemnly proclaim – with effect from zero hours on November 11 – the independence of Angola and its full sovereignty vested in the Angolan people", Admiral Cardoso told a press conference.

The handing over of power was made in the form of a declaration to newsmen since the three factions have failed to unite.

Eleven-hour efforts by Portugal and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to set up a government of national unity including all three movements fell through over the weekend.

The three groups are the Angolan People's Liberation Movement (MPLA), National Liberation Front (FNLA), and Union for Total Independence (UNITA).

The Portuguese flag was ceremoniously lowered for the last time in Angola at 15.30 (local time) to-day at the High Commissioner's palace and nearby San Pedro fortress.

Immediately afterwards Portuguese troops still stationed in the town marched to the naval base, led by the High Commissioner, to sail to Portugal.

Troops of the Angolan People's Liberation Movement (MPLA) immediately took over at the palace and the fortress.

Angola becomes the 47th independent state in Africa amidst a major and unprecedented civil war for control of the nation of 5.8 million people.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 11, 1925

Rare stamps

London, Nov. 10: A rare collection of stamps found by an accident weeks ago while a quantity of rubbish was being turned out of the attic in a house in Mayfair has been auctioned and realised five thousand four hundred sterling. A complete mint sheet of 120 of 1858 Ceylon half penny lilac fetched six hundred and fifty and another sheet slightly paler with two stamps cut out realised five hundred and thirty sterling.

CM YK

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Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The damage caused by Cyclone Montha in Andhra Pradesh

6,384 In ₹ crore. The Andhra Pradesh government revised the estimate of damage caused by Cyclone Montha to ₹ 6,384 crore and sought an immediate relief of ₹ 900 crore after a central team visited the State to assess the loss. PTI

Investment to develop small modular nuclear reactors in Sweden

400 In million Swedish crowns. A group of Swedish industrial companies has signed a deal with utility Vattenfall to invest 400 million Swedish crowns to develop small modular nuclear reactors in Sweden. Vattenfall's plan is to build reactors at its Ringhals plant. REUTERS

Persons killed in clashes between rival factions in Nigeria

200 Fighting between Boko Haram and rival militants from the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) group broke out in Dogon Chiku on the shores of Lake Chad, in the latest bout of infighting for territorial control fuelled by ideological rifts. AFP

Number of people killed in migrant shipwreck in Malaysia

13 Authorities in Malaysia and Thailand have recovered at least 13 bodies as they search for survivors after a boat carrying migrants capsized. Officials said the boat was carrying about 70 migrants, many believed to be from the Rohingya community trying to reach Malaysia. AFP

Number of persons displaced due to Typhoon Fung-wong

1.4 In million. Typhoon Fung-wong blew out of the northwestern Philippines after setting off floods and landslides, and killing at least four people. The country is still dealing with the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kalmagai. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is the role of a pay commission?

How have public sector compensation systems evolved over decades? When was the first Central Pay Commission constituted? What are the different terms of reference? What are international practices? How can the government attract and retain talent?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

The Central government has constituted the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) with retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai as the Chairperson. It also consists of Professor Pulak Ghosh, faculty at IIM Bangalore, as a part-time member and Pankaj Jain IAS, Secretary to the government of India, as member-secretary. It will submit its report within 18 months.

What is a pay commission?

Pay commissions are set up in India by an executive order based on a Cabinet decision. The role of the CPC is to go into various issues of salary structures, retirement benefits and other service conditions of Central government employees, including defence personnel, and make suitable recommendations on the changes required. The first CPC was set up in 1946.

What are its terms of reference?

The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the pay commissions are finalised by the Union Cabinet. The TOR of the 8th CPC requires it to consider certain factors while making its recommendations. They include economic conditions of the country and the need for fiscal prudence; need to ensure adequate resources for developmental expenditure and welfare measures; unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes; impact of recommendations on State government finances that usually adopt the recommendations of the CPC; and the prevailing emolument structure and working conditions available for central public sector undertakings and private sector employees.

What are the international practices?

Globally, till the 1970s, the compensation

Table 1: Comparison of public sector employment and expenditure

Country	Public sector wage bill (% of GDP)	Public sector wage bill (% of total expenditure)	Public sector employment (% of total employment)
India	5.48	17.70	8.5
U.S.	9.50	20.58	12.9
U.K.	10.20	20.29	29.0
France	13.37	21.43	31.5
Germany	8.51	16.46	22.4
Brazil	10.65	24.92	12.5

Source: World Bank – World Bureaucracy Indicators - 2012



system for the public sector was aimed at achieving equity by benchmarking them with similar roles in the private employment market. In the 1980s, efficiency replaced equity as the key principle in determining compensation. Starting with the 1990s, performance and incentives became the key principle while balancing them with affordability. At present, public sector compensation systems are evolving to recruit and retain individuals with appropriate competencies and skills, while attempting to contain the total cost to the public exchequer.

As per global standards the key characteristics of fair compensation in the public sector are clear philosophy, ability to attract talent, internal equity, external

competitiveness and clarity. In India while internal equity is given adequate weightage, external competitiveness lags behind when it comes to compensation for top positions.

It is interesting to note some comparative data for large democracies on certain parameters of public sector employment summarised in Table 1. It can be observed that while the general perception in our country is that public sector employment and wages are gargantuan with limited efficiency, it is lesser in almost all parameters when compared to other major democracies.

What next?

There are certain key aspects of the TOR that require attention. First, the TOR

requires the CPC to compare the pay structure of the public sector with the private sector. This has been addressed even in earlier pay commissions. Entry level posts in the public sector have significantly higher salaries than their private counterparts while it is the opposite for higher posts and specialist roles. The compression ratio, that is, the ratio of lowest to highest salaries in the Central government has been fixed at 1:12.5 in the seventh CPC. Privileges and perks coupled with job security is a significant intangible that makes up for lower salary packages in top government posts. However, this needs to be revisited with respect to certain top posts and specialist roles in order to attract and retain talent. Second, intangibles like learning and development, training, and work environment including flexible working and health promotion are not part of the TOR. It may be expected that the Commission will address these issues in its final report.

Finally, the 8th CPC has been mandated to consider economic conditions, need to ensure adequate resources for welfare, and unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes. The pension bill for the year 2025-26 is estimated at ₹ 2.76 lakh crore out of the total revenue expenditure of ₹ 39.44 lakh crore of the central government. The impact of non-contributory pension schemes on the government exchequer needs to be borne in mind while making recommendations. However, welfare measures are political decisions that keep evolving. New schemes are announced by the Centre from time to time. Considering these factors, a commission with members from the judiciary, academia and bureaucracy may not be equipped to assess the impact. There may also be a case for broad basing the commission with finance and human resource professionals to bring in diverse opinions.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

▼ Pay commissions are set up in India by an executive order based on a Cabinet decision.

▼ At present, public sector compensation systems are evolving to recruit and retain individuals with appropriate competencies and skills, while attempting to contain the total cost to the public exchequer.

First, the TOR requires the CPC to compare the pay structure of the public sector with the private sector.

Why access to knowledge is crucial for innovation

How will restricting free flow of information hamper innovation and growth in economies?

Rahul Menon

The current Nobel Prize in Economics has been given to three economists – Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt – who have studied the role of technological change and creative destruction in economic growth. While the work of the latter two would be more readily recognisable to the modern economist, Mokyr adopts a historical lens to study the relationship between knowledge, ideas and economic growth.

What was Mokyr's model?

Mokyr's model makes a distinction between two kinds of knowledge: propositional and prescriptive. The former is knowledge about scientific phenomena and principles, while the latter concerns knowledge about techniques. Economic growth occurs with an increase in both kinds of knowledge,

where societies possess not just scientific or theoretical knowledge, but also the knowledge of techniques to put them into use. What is important to understand is that it is not enough for society to merely possess knowledge; what matters is that a majority of members are able to access this knowledge, and that social norms promote the sharing of knowledge and free exchange of ideas. Technological progress is not merely an economic process, but a social and cultural outcome regulating the spread and sharing of knowledge amongst society.

Mokyr tells us the importance not just of generating new ideas, but of sharing and communicating these ideas. Free markets do not automatically guarantee growth, and state intervention does not ensure negative growth prospects. Instead, anything that restricts the free flow of information directly hampers innovation and growth. In that respect, one can point to certain social institutions

in India that have hampered growth – such as caste – while being aware of the potentially negative effects of job polarisation and automation in restricting the spread of knowledge amongst theorists and practitioners.

Does the caste system stop growth?

The social institution of caste in India has ensured that knowledge was the preserve of an elite minority, with violence being used to restrict access. Following Independence, policy proposals such as reservations have been introduced to rectify this balance. However, access to high quality education still remains out of reach for many, while the slow retreat of the public sector ensures quality education once again remains the preserve of the elite.

Mokyr's work shows us the dangers of not ensuring universal access to quality knowledge. What matters is not just the extent of knowledge accumulated by a

society, but whether enough individuals have access to it in order to use it to tinker, experiment, and devise new techniques to introduce economic innovations. The existence of knowledge but with no meaningful access to it is as good as a society that possesses no knowledge at all. The extreme fragmentation of caste implies that not only is education restricted, but rigid conventions that ensure communities do not meaningfully interact further restricts innovations.

In this regard, one can see the importance of breaking down caste barriers, and improving educational access as well as ensuring quality education for all. This is of relevance given the slow retreat of the state in education and the rise in private universities. Much of the population may be unable to access quality education owing to high fees and lack of reservations in private universities.

What about automation?

Current labour markets have been thrown into disarray and profound uncertainty with the introduction of automation driven by AI.

The threat of job displacement is serious, but there is another, deeper question: what happens to the sharing of practical knowledge about capital and techniques when fewer individuals have access to it? Automation brings with it the

problem of job polarisation, where much of routine work is performed by machines and/or AI, with humans in either highly skilled tasks or performing service occupations, such as in restaurants. This could potentially reduce the share of workforce who actually have knowledge of modern techniques. The transmission of knowledge about techniques of production requires long periods of familiarising oneself with the methods of operation, through personal contact, training and hands-on experience.

Automation can have significant productivity effects, and might even prove to raise growth over time. But what happens to the sharing of knowledge of techniques if much of the labour force does not even have access to these new techniques?

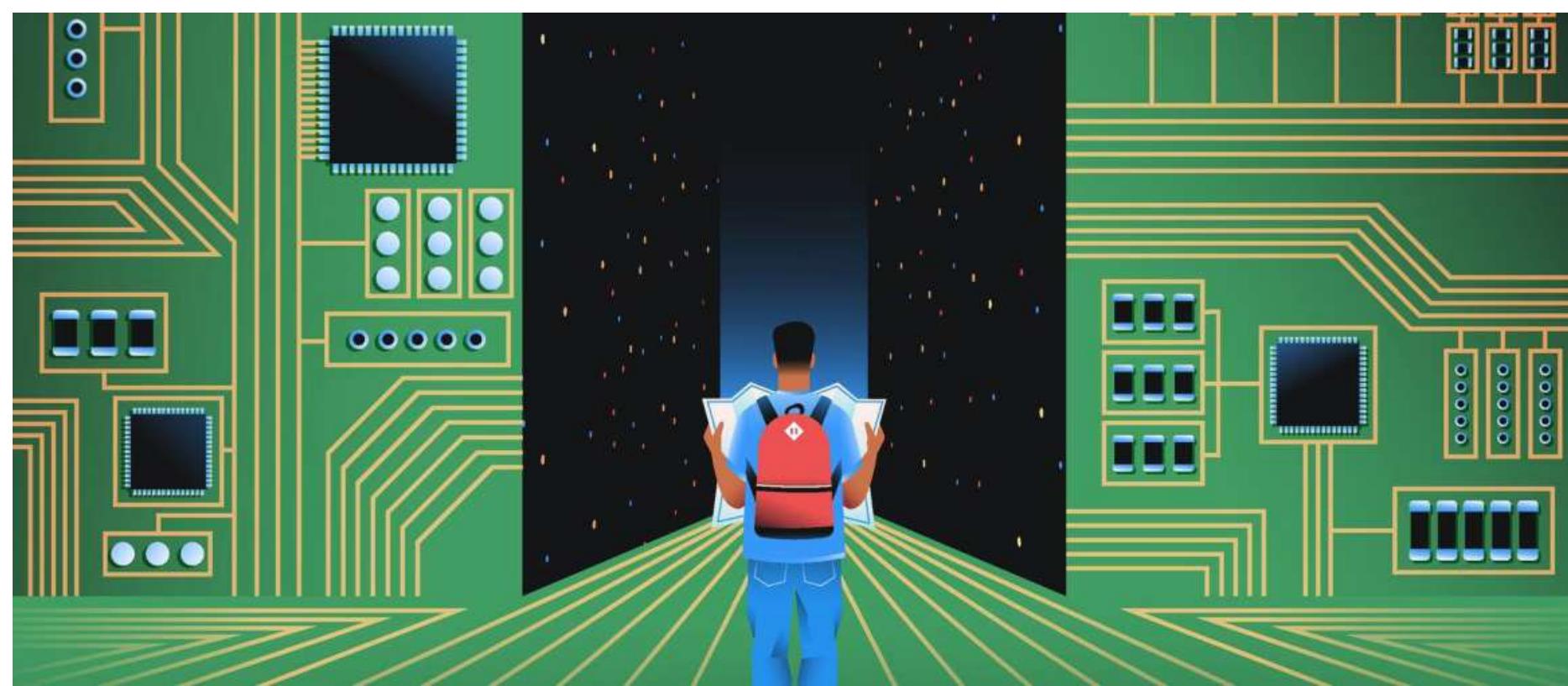
If inaccessible education and restrictive social institutions keep propositional knowledge restricted, and job polarisation and automation ensure prescriptive knowledge is out of reach, economy-wide innovation is bound to suffer. The transformation of knowledge into innovations and growth depends on the cultural and social norms determining the costs of access to knowledge.

Democratisation of education, far from being inimical to economic efficiency, is actually an important condition to ensure faster growth.

Rahul Menon is associate professor at O.P. Jindal Global University.

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CACHE



GETTY IMAGES

What happens when public knowledge is created on private infrastructure?

Recent advancements in AI are raising concerns about the corporate monopolisation of knowledge and the urgent need for equitable access to research, prompting discussions on the future of innovation and collaboration

Vasudevan Mukunth

Over the past year, a considerable amount of recognition for Machine Learning (ML) has gone to researchers working in or alongside large technology firms, even as recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have been financed and built on corporate infrastructure.

In 2024, the Nobel Foundation awarded the physics prize to John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton for contributions that enabled learning with artificial neural networks, and the chemistry prize to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for protein structure prediction (alongside David Baker's computational design). Mr. Hassabis and Mr. Jumper were employed at Google DeepMind at the time of the award; Mr. Hinton had spent a decade at Google before departing in 2023. These affiliations don't erase the laureates' academic histories but they do indicate where prize-level research is now being performed.

This change rests on material conditions as well as ideas. State-of-the-art models depend on large computing clusters, curated data, and engineering teams. Google's programme to develop Tensor-Processing Units (TPU) for its data centres shows how fixed capital can become a scientific input rather than only an information technology cost. Microsoft's multiyear financing and Azure supercomputers for OpenAI reflect the same political economy from a different angle.

Case for public access

Any research with public provenance should return to the public domain. In this context, public money has supported early theoretical work, academic posts, fellowships, shared datasets, publishing infrastructure, and often the researchers themselves. In parallel, the points at which the value became excludable lay increasingly downstream: with respect to

computing resources (shortened as compute), this includes rights to data and code, the ability to deploy models at scale, and decisions to release or withhold weights. This helps explain why recent Nobel laureates have been situated in corporate laboratories and why frontier systems are predominantly trained on private cloud systems.

In the 20th century, firms such as Bell Labs and IBM hosted prize-winning basic research. However, much of the knowledge then moved through reproducible publications and open benchmarks. Today, reproducing the work of Mr. Jumper, for example, can require large compute budgets and specialised operations expertise. As a result the concern isn't only that corporations receive prizes but that the path from a public insight to a working system is infrastructure and contracts controlled by a few firms.

The involvement of public funds should thus create concrete obligations at points where technology becomes enclosed for private control. If an academic laboratory accepts a public grant, the deliverables should include the artefacts that make the work usable, including the training code, evaluation suites, and weights in the AI models to be released under open licences. If a public agency buys cloud credits or commissions model development, procurement should require that the benchmarks and improvements flow back to the commons rather than become locked into a vendor.

Remove bottlenecks

The argument isn't that corporate laboratories can't do fundamental science; they clearly can. The claim is that public policy should reduce the structural advantages of private control. Consider the release of Google DeepMind's AlphaFold 2, which, together with its code and public access to predictions, allowed researchers beyond the originating lab to run the system on (reasonably) standard hardware, retrieve large numbers of precomputed

structures, and integrate their results into routine workflows. All this work was supported by public institutions that were willing to host and maintain the resources.

Where the corporate stack is indispensable, such as when training frontier models (with billions or trillions of parameters), claims about 'responsible release' often ironically translate to a closed release. Instead, a more consistent position should be to link risk management to a structured model of openness – perhaps one that includes staged releases, access to weights, open penetration testing tools, and a clear separation between safety rationales and business models – rather than allow private entities to resort to blanket secrecy in the name of safety.

The same logic applies to compute: that is, if computing resources become a scientific bottleneck, they should be treated as a public utility. National and regional compute commons should allocate resources for free or at-cost to academic groups, nonprofits, and small firms, and qualify them on open deliverables and safety practices. The ultimate goal is to restore the ability of public institutions to reproduce, test, and extend leading ML work without having to seek corporate permission. Without such a commons, however, publicly funded ideas will continue to be turned into working systems on private clouds and returned to the public as expensive information products.

Indeed, while it's tempting to treat the entities employing the laureates and funding pipelines as separate issues, one symbolic and the other structural, they're connected by the computing resources. The fact that the Nobel laureates worked at Google DeepMind reflects where teams with ML scientists, domain experts, data, and compute now operate. Likewise, the fact that the most visible systems of the past two years were trained on Microsoft Azure under a financing agreement explains who could attempt such training. Both facts reflect underlying resource

concentrations.

Beyond industry vs academia

Public agencies' response should be direct – by, say, tying funding to openness in grants and procurement and requiring detailed funding disclosures and compute-cost accounting in research papers. Where full openness would create unacceptable risks, agencies can use equity or royalties to fund compute and data commons that support the wider ecosystem. For corporate laboratories, on the other hand, their credibility should rest on measurable contributions to the commons.

Journalists and the publics should also move beyond an 'industry versus academia' framing.

The relevant questions are who sets the research agenda, who controls infrastructure, who can reproduce results, and who benefits from deploying the resulting AI models. Interpreting the 2024 Nobel Prizes as industry victories alone would miss the point that the knowledge base is cumulative and relies on public inputs, while the capacity to operationalise that knowledge is clustered. Articulating this pattern allows us to recognise scientific merit while demanding reforms that ensure public inputs produce public returns – in code, data, weights, benchmarks, and access to compute.

To be sure, the central conclusion isn't resentment about corporate salaries but responding to the fact that breakthroughs are increasingly occurring at the intersection of public knowledge and private infrastructure. The policy programme should be to reunite the layers where public and private enterprises diverge – artefacts, datasets, and compute – and to bake this expectation into contracts and norms that govern research.

In these conditions, future awards can be celebrated with corresponding public benefit because the outputs that make the science usable will be returned to the public.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Your match was washed out, was it?"

"Yes, it was. We had a good time, though. We sat around cutting jokes."

"Really? Who cracked the most number of jokes?"

"Who 'cracked' jokes? You mean who 'cut' the most number of jokes?"

"You usually 'crack' or 'tell' a joke."

"...but I've heard many people say, 'He cut a good joke'."

"That's right. We in India often 'cut jokes'. A native speaker, on the other hand, normally 'cracks' or 'tells' jokes. For example, Sujatha cracked a number of jokes at the party."

"My physics teacher doesn't crack jokes in class."

"Not many teachers crack jokes in class. My father used to crack a lot of jokes at weddings."

"Really? While we are on the subject of weddings, what exactly is the difference between 'wedding' and 'marriage'?"

"Good question. You see, both 'wedding' and 'marriage' can be used to refer to the ceremony at which a man and a woman become man and wife. For example, I can say, my friend's wedding will take place in the local church. It is also possible to say, my friend's marriage will take place in the local church."

"I see. Is it OK to say, the groom was ill, so the wedding was put off?"

"Sounds fine. You can also say..."

"...the groom was ill, so the marriage was put off by a month."

"Exactly!"

"So what you're saying is that there is no difference between 'marriage' and 'wedding'. Is that right?"

"The two can be used synonymously in some contexts, not in all contexts. As I said, if you are referring to the ceremony, the two can be used interchangeably. If, on the other hand, you want to refer to the legal relationship entered upon by the groom and the bride, then you have to use 'marriage' and not 'wedding'. For example, my boss's daughter has a very unhappy marriage. I cannot say..."

"...my boss's daughter has a very unhappy wedding."

"That's right! Similarly, I can say, after twenty years of marriage, they decided to get a divorce."

"Right again! The meaning of 'wedding' is restricted. It's used to refer to the ceremony; that is, the various functions and rituals that take place when two people tie the knot. The word 'marriage' has a broader meaning. It..."

"...a marriage continues even after the wedding is over."

"Exactly!"

"But tell me, why is your boss's daughter getting a divorce? She is such a nice homely person."

"Ah, 'homely'! You know, if you told a native speaker of English that his wife is homely, he would probably slap you."

"Really? Why?"

"Because when you describe a woman as being 'homely', it means that she is very plain. In other words, not very good-looking."

Published in The Hindu on August 25, 1998.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to
dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Tycho Brahe's documentation of a sudden new star in 1572, today identified as SN 1572 or 'Tycho's Supernova', marked a turning point in observational astronomy

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1

In which constellation did Tycho Brahe observe the 1572 supernova?

QUESTION 2

What title did Tycho Brahe give his 1573 treatise on the phenomenon (in Latin)?

QUESTION 3

Approximately how far away is the remnant of SN 1572 from Earth?

QUESTION 4

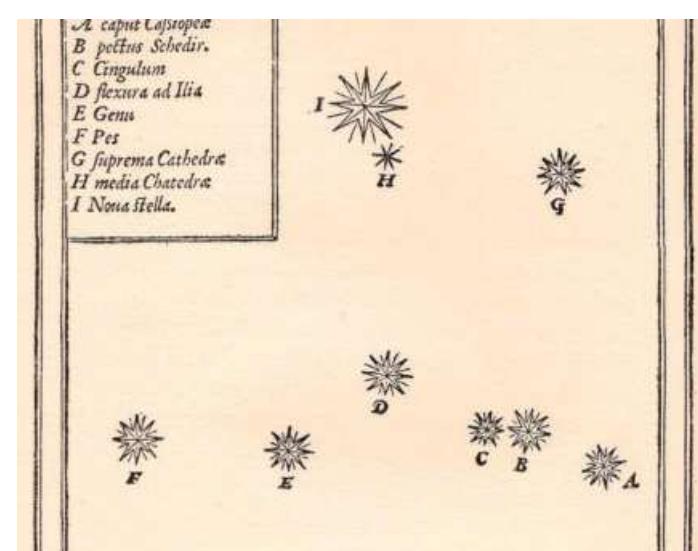
In the standard Type Ia supernova model, the class to which SN 1572 belongs, what initiates the explosion of the white dwarf?

QUESTION 5

Why were Tycho Brahe's observations considered groundbreaking?

QUESTION 6

Which philosophical or cosmological doctrine was unsettled by the appearance of SN 1572?



Visual question:
Identify this image.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz

1. The only other team apart from India, Australia and England to lift the cup. **Ans: New Zealand**

2. The overall prize money Indian women received for their winning effort. **Ans: \$4.48 million**

3. These two Indian batters scored tons apart from Jemimah Rodrigues. **Ans: Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana**

4. Name the three Indians who made it to the

ICC's team of the tournament. **Ans: Smriti Mandhana, Deepthi Sharma and Jemimah Rodrigues**

5. India's win in the semifinal was the highest

chase in the history of Women's ODIs, eclipsing a mark set by Australia against this team. **Ans: India!**

6. The first achieved by Deepthi Sharma against South Africa. **Ans: Score a half-century and take a five-for**

Visual: Name this player. **Ans: Kranti Goud**

Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Hardidas Pal| Dodo Jayaditya| Sudhir Thapa| Sumana Dutta

Word of the day

Provenance:

where something originated or was nurtured in its early existence

Synonyms:

birthplace, cradle, place of origin

Usage:

It was a shawl of Iranian provenance.

Pronunciation:

newsth.live/provenance

International Phonetic Alphabet:

/prəvə.nəns/, /prəvə.nəns/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

Opposition demands thorough probe into shocking explosion near Red Fort

Those responsible for the security lapse must be held accountable, says Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, while RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav says government must take transparent action; witness says the blast went off in a slow-moving vehicle and several taxis around it caught fire

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday urged the Union government to ensure a "prompt and thorough investigation" into the Delhi blast, especially given that it occurred in a high-security zone, while RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said the government must take free and transparent action to reassure the public.

At least nine people were killed and several injured as a high-intensity blast ripped through a slow-moving vehicle near the Red Fort. The blast triggered a fire that engulfed nearby vehicles, including several commercial taxis.

"In this moment of grief, our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families, and we pray for the swift recovery of the injured," Mr. Kharge said, adding that those responsible for the security lapse must be held accountable.

Heartbreaking: LoP
The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, called the incident "heartbreaking and concerning". He extended



Gruesome act: Security personnel at the blast site near the Red Fort on Monday, and the scene at the LNJP Hospital. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

condolences to the kin of the deceased and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal expressed anguish, saying, "The loss of many lives is especially painful. The entire country is united in this difficult moment."

He urged the government to "speedily investigate this incident and

throw further light on what has transpired".

Reassure public'

Mr. Yadav, who is the Grand Alliance's chief ministerial nominee in Bihar election, demanded a thorough probe to "reassure the public with fair and transparent action" and ensure that the culprits face the "harshest possible punishment".

"For how long Indians

will live in fear," he asked. The second and final phase of polling for Bihar assembly elections is scheduled on Tuesday.

Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal called for an immediate investigation into the possibility of a larger conspiracy. "Negligence regarding Delhi's security cannot be tolerated," he said.



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav stressed that the incident should be investigated from every angle and that immediate security measures be put in place to alleviate public fear.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi demanded maximum punishment for those responsible for the "condemnable act".

Left party leaders also grieved the deaths in Red

Fort blast and demanded a thorough enquiry to bring to book the perpetrators. "Deeply shocked... Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wishing a speedy recovery to the injured," CPI (Marxist) general secretary M.A. Ba by said in a post on X.

CPI (M-L) Liberation, in a statement, said it was "deeply shocked by the trail of death and destruction..."

Haryana, U.P., and Punjab placed on high alert

The Hindu Bureau

CHANDIGARH

Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh were placed on high alert on Monday following the high-intensity blast near the Red Fort in Delhi.

The Punjab Police, in a statement, said a red alert had been sounded across all districts in Punjab.

He added that Senior Police officers are asked to be vigilant and the police force are deployed at sensitive and vulnerable areas, and checking of vehicles are being conducted. Haryana Director-General of Police (DGP) O.P. Singh said the State had been placed on high alert. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered the police to remain on high alert after the blast.

J&K Police conduct large-scale crackdown in 10 districts; nearly 100 people detained

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR



Security personnel conducting cordon-and-search operations at multiple locations across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. ANI

Hours ahead of the Delhi blast, the Jammu & Kashmir Police carried out a large-scale crackdown in around 10 districts of the Valley on Monday.

Nearly 100 people were either detained or bound down in several districts as more than 70 locations were raided and searched.

In Baramulla of north

Kashmir, the police said, 16

properties linked to Paki-

stan-occupied Kashmir

(PoK) or Pakistan-based

Kashmiri natives and 23 lo-

cations with links to "over-

ground workers" (OGWs)

were searched.

"The operation resulted

in 10 individuals being

bound down under pre-

ventive provisions. Be-

sides, 16 OGWs are bound

down for aiding unlawful

activities," the police said.

The police said 175 vehi-

cles were searched at stra-

tegic checkpoints along the

National Highway and oth-

er vital routes in north

Kashmir.

"Thirty-two cordon and

search operations (CASOS)

were conducted simulta-

neously across different

parts of the district," the

police said.

In central Kashmir's

Ganderbal district, the pol-

ice said 39 persons were

taken into custody as a pre-

ventive measure, "after

credible inputs suggested

their involvement in activi-

ties detrimental to public

peace and security".

"Extensive searches of

the houses of J&K nationals

operating from Pakistan or PoK, surrendered and ex-militants were carried out. The operation was aimed at disrupting the local support network that facilitates anti-national elements and ensures sustained peace and stability in the district," the police said.

In south Kashmir's Anantnag, similar operations were carried out at "suspected locations", especially with links to "anti-national elements, terror associates and UAPA-accused persons", the police said.

"The objective of these operations was to trace and identify individuals involved in subversive activi-

ties, monitor suspicious

movements, and ensure

public safety and order,"

the police said.

In Pulwama's Awantipo-

ra and Pulwama town, multiple locations were searched, "including areas where a recent encounter took place and at the residences of the killed terrorists and their associates".

In Shopian, the police said raids continued for the third consecutive day.

"The police have estab-

lished violations of bail

conditions and are in the

process of moving formal

applications before the

competent court for can-

cellation of their bail or-

ders. This action is part of

police's efforts to ensure

that judicial reliefs are not

misused by those involved

in unlawful or anti-national

activities," the police said.

The police have filed 16

applications for cancella-

tion of bail granted to ac-

cused persons booked un-

der the UAPA in south

Kashmir.



Close watch: Security personnel stand guard in Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. PTI

Seven nabbed as J&K Police seize 2,900 kg IED-making material

Vijaita Singh
Peerzada Ashiq

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Police have busted an "inter-State and trans-national terror module", arrested seven people, and seized 2,900 kg of improvised explosive device (IED)-making material in the past 15 days, officials said on Monday.

A Srinagar-based police spokesperson said the terror module was linked to the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind.

"The investigation has revealed a white collar terror ecosystem involving radicalised professionals and students in contact with foreign handlers operating from Pakistan and other countries," the spokesperson said.

The arrested individuals include two doctors – Muzammil Ahmad Ganai, also known as Musaib, a resident of Koil, Pulwama, and Adeel, a resident of Wanpora, Kulgam.

The other accused are Arif Nisar Dar, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, and Maqsood Ahmad Dar, all residents of Nowgam, Srinagar; Zameer Ahmad Ahanger, alias Mutasha, of Ganderbal; and Irfan Ahmad, a resident of Shopian.

Dr. Ganai, 32, was teaching at Al Falah University at Dhoj in Faridabad, Haryana, around 40 km from Delhi.

Joint operation
Satyendar Kumar Gupta, Police Commissioner, Faridabad, told *The Hindu* that Dr. Ganai was arrested from a one-room rented accommodation around 10 days ago in a joint operation with the J&K Police.

"We found 350 kg of inflammable material, possibly ammonium nitrate, from the room, packed in eight big and four small suitcases. An assault rifle, 20 timers, batteries, five kg of heavy metals were among the recoveries

Official says a 'white collar terror group' of professionals and students were in contact with their foreign handlers

made from the room, where he had moved in 15 days ago," Mr. Gupta said.

The officer said Dr. Adeel was arrested from Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh. Another police official said that at Dr. Adeel's instance, another assault rifle was recovered from a locker at a medical college in Anantnag in south Kashmir.

According to the police, the ongoing investigation began after multiple Jaish posters were found at different locations in Bupura, Nowgam on October 19, "threatening and intimidating police and security forces".

A Central government source said the planning of the attack and the recruitment of the men was on for the past two years. The seized material comprised items commonly available in the market such as urea, which could be used as an explosive device, the source said.

Misguiding pamphlet
"It was the pamphlet pasted in Srinagar which led us to a maulvi in Shopian. His interrogation led to the arrest of six other suspects so far. The accused Irfan Ahmad, imam of a mosque in Shopian, was arrested with the help of human intelligence. More arrests and seizures are likely in the coming days," the source said.

The pamphlet in Urdu, accessed by *The Hindu*, asked local people to not cooperate with the security forces and also warned them to not allow security forces to sit in their shops or establishments.

The operation led to the arrest of key operators and recovery of a massive cache of arms, the police said.

Too much to bear: SC on highway accident cases

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said two back-to-back highway accidents, one in Telangana and the other at Phalodi in Rajasthan, claiming nearly 40 lives, many of them children, was "too much" to bear.

The court directed the National Highway Authority of India (NHA) and the Centre to explain why Indian roads continued to be such killers of innocents.

"This is just too much. In two days, there have been two horrible accidents. Nearly 40 people have gone," Justice J.K. Miheshwari, accompanied by Justice Vijay Bishnoi on the Bench, remarked.

Kerala local body polls to be held in 2 phases next month

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The 2025 local body elections in Kerala will be held in two phases on December 9 and December 11, State Election Commissioner A. Shajahan said in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, announcing the schedule of the elections.

Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Idukki, Alappuzha and Ernakulam will go to polls on December 9. Thrissur, Malappuram, Wayanad, Palakkad, Kannur, Kasaragod, and Kozhikode on December 11. The votes will be counted on December 13 at multiple counting centres. Nominations can be filed up to November 21.

The 2025 local body elections have coincided with the special intensive revision of the voters roll ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

for withdrawal of nominations is November 24.

Model code in force
With the announcement of the schedule, the model code of conduct has come into force. The code will be strictly enforced, Mr. Shajahan said.

Polling will be held from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Elections are to be held to 1,199 of the 1,200 local bodies. Following the delimitation exercise, the number of wards

in the 1,200 local bodies had risen to 23,612. Elections will be held to 17,337 wards in the

In final phase today, Bihar's voters will line up to get fingers inked in 122 seats

The fate of 12 Ministers in the Nitish Kumar-led State Cabinet is going to be decided in the second phase; the Grand Alliance parties are involved in 'friendly' fights in 11 constituencies; HAM(S) led by Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, and Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha's RLM face acid test

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The second and final phase of polling for the Bihar Assembly election in 122 Assembly constituencies spread across some 20 districts will take place on Tuesday, and 1,302 candidates are in the fray. Polling will also be held in Jharkhand's Ghatshila for an Assembly by-election.

According to Election Commission (EC) data, polling will be held at 45,399 polling stations in Bihar – 5,326 of them in urban areas and 40,073 in rural areas.

More than half the electorate (2.28 crore) are aged between 30 and 60. Only 7.69 lakh are in the 18-19 age group. The total number of women voters in these 122 constituencies is 1.75 crore.

In the first phase of polling held for 121 constituencies in 18 districts on November 6, the State had recorded its highest voting percentage in history with a 64.66% turnout.

The final phase includes Assembly constituencies in



Democratic exercise: Security officials carry EVMs as part of preparations on the eve of the second phase of voting in the Bihar Assembly election in Gaya, on Monday. PTI

the Magadh, Mithilanchal, Seemanchal, Shahabad and Tirhut regions.

Magadh and Shahabad regions, where it won just eight out of 48 constituencies.

In 2020, the NDA won 66 of the 122 seats while the Grand Alliance (*Mahagatbandhan*) won 49.

This time, the challenge for the Grand Alliance has got tougher because "friendly" fights between

the alliance partners are taking place in 11 constituencies.

No. of seats in alliances
In the second phase, the BJP is contesting from the most number of seats in the NDA – 53. The JD(U) is contesting 44. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), led by Chirag Paswan, has

fielded candidates in 15, the HAM(S) in six and the RLM in four.

In the Grand Alliance, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is contesting from 71 constituencies, the highest among the allies, the Congress from 37 constituencies, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Liberation) from six, the Communist Party of India (CPI) from five and the Vikashin Insaan Party (VIP) from eight. In all, 127 INDIA bloc candidates are in the fray in 122 constituencies.

The final phase is crucial for the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), led by Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, and the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM), headed by former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha member Upendra Kushwaha.

Mr. Kushwaha's wife Snehlata's fate is at stake in Sasaram. Mr. Manjhi's daughter-in-law Deepa Kumari is contesting from Imamganj and Deepa Kumari's mother Jyoti Devi from Barachatti.

Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) presi-

dent Rajesh Ram's fate will also be decided in this phase. He is contesting from Kutumba in Aurangabad district.

In Seemanchal, this phase is crucial for the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Asaduddin Owaisi, who has fielded 12 of its 28 candidates in the region, including AIMIM state president Akhter Iman from Amour. In the last election, the AIMIM won five seats.

The prominent names contesting in this phase include LJP (RV) state president Raju Tiwari from Govindganj, HAM(S) State president Anil Kumar from Tikari, besides former Assembly Speaker Uday Narayan Choudhary and former Deputy Chief Minister Tarkeshwar Prasad.

The fate of 12 Ministers of the Nitish Kumar government is also going to be decided in the second phase, the prominent among them being Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav from Supaul, Industry Minister Nitish Mishra from Jhanjharpur and Transport Minister Sheela Mandal from Phulparas.

Complainant says the song recorded in Samastipur features children and spreads caste-based hatred

An action-taken report (ATR) has been sought by the NHRC within two weeks for its perusal. According to the complaint, the language and presentation of the song are "provocative, divisive, and aimed at deepening caste-based animosity in society".

The complainant claimed such actions reflect the dangerous influence of the RJD's caste-based ideology, which could harm the psychological development of children and undermine democratic values.

The complainant emphasised that using minors in such propaganda violates the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, and Articles 14, 15, 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution. It further requested for an independent probe, accountability of those involved in the video's creation, and legal action to prevent any political party, especially the RJD, from involving minors in caste-based or hate-driven propaganda.

Bypolls will be a verdict on NC govt's one year, says PDP

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The byelection for the twin Assembly seats of Budgam and Nagrota in Jammu & Kashmir may not tilt the balance of power in the Union Territory (UT), but the ruling National Conference (NC) and Opposition parties, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the BJP, have a lot at stake.

The Budgam seat fell vacant after NC candidate Omar Abdullah, who won from two seats in the 2024 Assembly election, retained the Ganderbal seat.

The result will be seen as a verdict and a statement on Omar Abdullah's one-year rule of J&K as a UT.

It will be an uphill task for Mr. Abdullah's NC to repeat the numbers of 2024, even as the party fields an influential Shia cleric Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi. The party is grappling with growing differences between Mr. Abdullah and NC Member of Parliament Aga Syed Ruhullah, an influential Shia cleric whose home town is Budgam.

Mr. Ruhullah decided against campaigning for the party over "Mr. Abdullah's inability as the Chief Minister to fulfil the promises made in the election manifesto, especially on the issues of reservation and arrested youth".

Other factors against the NC are anti-incumbency and the PDP's deliberate bid to build its narrative around the government's failure to deliver in the past one year.

"Mr. Abdullah promised to remove smart meters. Similarly, promises regarding free gas cylinders were not met. Unemployment has increased," PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said.

The Nagrota seat, which fell vacant after BJP leader and MLA Devender Pana passed away last year, will see the deceased leader's daughter Devyani Rana taking over NC's Shamim Begum and Panthers Party's Harshdev Singh.

Tejashwi asks EC why gender-wise data of Bihar electors not released

Amit Bhelari
PATNA



Query time: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav says people want to know why the poll panel is not providing the gender ratio of turnout. ANI

and wondered where the poll body stood.

"The EC has become a laughing stock and democracy is being mocked. Even foreign media is laughing at the EC," the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly said.

Alleging that in many places, the CCTV cameras at the counting centres were being turned off for some time in the night, Mr. Yadav said the EC should explain why this was happening.

The RJD leader also claimed that 208 companies of police from Bharati-

ya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled States had been engaged in election duty, and 68% of the observers in the 243 Assembly constituencies were from BJP-ruled States.

Police forces used to participate in elections previously but they were Central security forces. This is the first time that police forces from BJP-ruled States have been brought. However, police forces from neighbouring States such as West Bengal and Jharkhand were not called, nor were police forces from Opposition-

ruled States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura, and Punjab called. What is the reason," he asked.

Mr. Yadav, who held 171 public meetings over the course of his campaign, said the people of Bihar had voted for change and transformation in the first phase.

'80% CAPF forces'

Responding to Mr. Yadav's remarks, an EC official said the overall male-female gender ratio in voter turnout was generally provided at the time of the final turnout.

Nearly 80% of the police were deployed from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), and only about 20% of the police had been deployed from the State Armed Police, drawn proportionately from different States based on availability.

CCTVs cameras had been functioning at all strong rooms, and if any malfunctioning came to light, it was promptly rectified, the official said.

NDA is heading for historic victory in Bihar polls: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said on Monday that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was heading towards a historic victory in the Bihar Assembly election.

Countering Tejashwi Yadav's remarks that industrial units are located only in BJP-ruled States, Union Minister and BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad listed projects implemented in Bihar.

"So far, 17 ethanol projects have been launched in Bihar. The Government of India has for the first time fulfilled the available quota. Major investments have been made in textiles in Bettiah, Madhubani, Patna, and Begusarai districts... Bihar has become a major hub for biscuit factories and food processing ventures... MoUs worth ₹1.18 lakh crore have been signed," said Mr. Prasad, attributing these developments to an environment free of terror, crime, and



NDA supporters raise slogans at a campaign rally of BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Arwal, Bihar on November 9. ANI

fear in Bihar.

He said the NDA's consecutive victories over the past 20 years were due to the trust factor, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would jointly ensure Bihar's development.

"This election is about jungle raj versus good governance. Mr. Tejashwi Yadav is carrying forward his father's legacy of corruption, misgovernance, and

fear... [RJD chief] Lalu Prasad has been sentenced to prison in fodder scam cases. What does jungle raj mean? Fear, intimidation, kidnapping, corruption, and lack of action," the BJP leader said.

Mr. Prasad said that during the election campaign, the alliance stood united with one goal – "One leader at the national level, Narendra Modi; one leader at the State level, Nitish Kumar."

BJD chief Patnaik expresses displeasure over alleged violation of MCC in Nuapada bypoll

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Former Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik on Monday expressed strong displeasure over the alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), accusing Ministers and ruling BJP MLAs of remaining in Nuapada despite being required to leave the district 36 hours before polling.

Nuapada goes to the polls on Tuesday. The bypoll is being held following the demise of former Minister and senior BJD leader Rajendra Dholakia.

In a social media post on X, Mr. Patnaik said: "The



Naveen Patnaik

hallmark of a true democracy lies in the conduct of free and fair elections.

However, it has come to our notice that in Nuapada, serious violations are taking place during the legally mandated silence period – 36 hours before polling.

The veteran leader cited Election Commission (EC) guidelines stating that political leaders and campaigners from outside the constituency must leave the area once the silence period begins.

"Contrary to this, we have reliable information that Ministers, MLAs, and leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from outside

are freely moving around and attempting to influence voters through unfair means," he said.

"Disturbingly, when local BJD leaders have objected to these activities, they have been detained

by the police. This clearly suggests that the district administration and local police are acting in a partisan manner, serving the interests of the ruling party rather than upholding electoral neutrality."

Integrity in question
"This situation strikes at the very core of democratic fairness and undermines public faith in the electoral process. Such actions will cast a serious shadow on the integrity of the polls in Nuapada," said former Odisha Chief Minister, who also holds the presidency of BJD.

The BJD chief urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to "enforce the

36-hour silence period strictly so that Ministers, MLAs, and BJD leaders from outside vacate the constituency as per ECI norms."

He also appealed to the Commission to direct administration and police to act impartially and uphold the sanctity of the election process, while keeping a close watch on sensitive and vulnerable booths identified by the BJD and other opposition parties.

"The people of India have inherited this democracy through the sacrifices of our forefathers, and it is the duty of every institution especially the ECI to protect it from erosion," Mr. Patnaik said.

Ensure a smooth Winter Session: Birla

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said "planned disruptions" of the proceedings of the House are not good practices in a democracy.

Talking to reporters during the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) conference in Kohima, he said convening a session of Parliament is the prerogative of the government, and the session's duration is not to be questioned.

"The session is a time for discussion, exchange of views, raising people-centric issues, and voicing their expectations and aspirations. We expect that all political parties will raise issues inside the House, not outside," the Lok Sabha Speaker added.

parties to ensure the smooth functioning of the House," he said.

The Winter Session of Parliament will begin on December 1 and end on December 19, with 15 sittings. The Opposition has questioned the short duration of the session.

Mr. Birla asked political parties to use Parliament as a forum to raise issues of public concern and not to create disruptions.

"The session is a time for discussion, exchange of views, raising people-centric issues, and voicing their expectations and aspirations. We expect that all political parties will raise issues inside the House, not outside," the Lok Sabha Speaker added.

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IN BRIEF



Actor Dharmendra admitted to hospital in Mumbai

Actor Dharmendra is under observation at a Mumbai hospital and is being "continuously monitored" his wife Hema Malini said on Monday. The 89-year-old actor has been in and out of south Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital for several days. As rumours about his condition swirled on social media and elsewhere, an industry insider said Dharmendra was in a serious condition. "Dharamji's health is not in a great state," the insider said on condition of anonymity. A representative of Dharmendra's son Sunny Deol denied reports that the *Sholay* star was on ventilator. "Mr. Dharmendra is stable and under observation. Further comments and updates will be shared as available." *PTI*

Rajnath Singh lauds DPSUs on acquiring Miniratna status

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a comprehensive review meeting of defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) at the newly inaugurated DPSU Bhawan at the World Trade Centre here on Monday. At the meeting, Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), India Optel Limited (IOL), and Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) were felicitated on being granted the Miniratna (Category-I) status. The Minister commended the DPSUs for strengthening India's defence manufacturing ecosystem and advancing the national vision of self-reliance. He said that the newly granted Miniratna status will enable greater capacity expansion and modernisation.

India and Vietnam move to strengthen defence ties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh met Vietnam's Minister of National Defence, General Phan Van Giang, on the sidelines of the 15th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue in Hanoi on Monday.

He conveyed warm greetings from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and reaffirmed India's commitment to further strengthening defence cooperation with Vietnam.

During the dialogue, co-chaired by Mr. Rajesh Singh and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of National Defence Senior Lieutenant-General Hoang Xuan Chien, both sides reviewed ongoing defence engagements and explored new areas of collaboration.

MoA signed

A memorandum of agreement on Mutual Submarine Search and Rescue Support and Cooperation and a letter of intent on Defence Industry Cooperation were signed.

The discussions underscored that defence partnership continues to be a key pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Vietnam, a press statement said.

Ministry simplifies rules to boost cornea transplant services

A notification was issued on Nov. 6 removing mandatory requirement of clinical specular equipment in corneal transplantation centres

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has amended the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Rules, 2025 to boost cornea donation and transplant services across the country. A notification in this regard was issued on November 6 under the under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994.

The mandatory requirement of the clinical specular equipment in corneal transplantation centres has now been removed under this amendment. Clinical specular microscopes are used to assess the health and density of corneal endothelial cells.

"This change has been introduced after careful consideration of expert recommendations and stakeholder consultations," said a release issued by the Ministry on Monday. It added that the move also aligns with the government's vision to promote equitable



Corneal blindness is the second-leading cause of blindness in the over-50 age group in India. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

access to organ and tissue transplantation services.

The amendment strengthens the National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) and streamlines functioning of corneal transplantation centres, the Ministry added.

It said the amendment is expected to ease infrastructure and operational challenges, particularly for smaller eye centres in rural and semi-urban areas. A corneal transplant is a surgical procedure to replace a damaged or diseased cornea with healthy donor tissue to restore vision and reduce pain.

The cornea is the clear,

front part of the eye that helps focus light; when it becomes cloudy or scarred from injury, infection, or certain medical conditions, vision can be significantly impaired. The transplant can involve replacing the entire cornea or just the affected layers.

As per an article published in the *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology*, titled *Corneal blindness in India: The care gap*, corneal blindness has been the second-leading cause of blindness in the over-50 age group in India. It said the country has an estimated 1.2 million corneal blind persons.

Plea says process of hallucinations will mean GenAI will be based on a law that might not even exist

data must be transparent enough to ensure stakeholders' liability.

"The skill of GenAI to leverage advanced neural networks and unsupervised learning to generate new data, uncover hidden patterns, and automate complex processes can lead to 'hallucinations', resulting in fictitious judgments and research material, and even perpetuate bias."

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, before whose Bench the case came up, reacted that the judges were aware and vocal about the incursions made by AI in judicial functioning.

Kartikeya Rawal, an advocate represented by his counsel, Abhinav Shrivastava, urged the top court to formulate a strict policy or, at least, frame guidelines for regulated, transparent, secure and uniform use of GenAI in courts, tribunals and other quasi-judicial bodies until a law was put in place.

The petition warned the opaque use of AI and Machine Learning technologies in the judicial system and governance would trigger constitutional and human rights concerns. The judiciary must avail only data free from bias, and the ownership of that

Remembering V. Rajaraman, a tireless evangelist of computer education in India

TRIBUTE

Dinesh C. Sharma

The software programming and services sector in India has done remarkably well. Computer programming that started in a small way in academic institutions in the 1960s developed into a formidable industry in a few decades. This was possible due to the rapid spread of programming skills even before full-fledged graduate and postgraduate courses.

These efforts were pioneered at the IIT-Kanpur under Vaidyeswaran Rajaraman, who was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1998. He passed away on November 8.

Rajaraman began his career at a time when computers had to be designed, fabricated, and pro-



grammed for specific purposes. As a young student of electrical communication engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, in the mid-1950s, he worked on a project to design an analogue computer led by Vincent Rideout, a visiting professor from the University of Wisconsin. Rideout had brought with him components, sub-assemblies, and operational amplifiers to fabricate the computer. After Rideout left, Rajaraman took charge of this machine, added features, and made it useful for researchers at the institute.

He went on to pursue a Master's at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a doctorate from Wisconsin, after which he returned to India and joined the then-new IIT-Kanpur. One of the first courses that he taught was

While conducting short-term courses and teaching regular students, he found there were no books available for them. He put together his notes on Fortran programming and got them printed as a booklet in 1968. It was sold in the campus bookstore for ₹5. After its popularity became evident, he was able to get Prentice Hall to print it: on low-quality paper and priced at ₹15, due to his condition that it be cheaper than photocopying the whole book. It became a bestseller.

After running the M.Tech. programme in computer science, he lobbied for B.Tech. in computer science. The IIT governing authorities grudgingly introduced the course with 20 seats in 1979. Gradually, other IITs and universities started independent departments of

computer science and engineering. In the 1980s, when software exports were becoming an industry, Rajaraman, as the head of the computer manpower committee, made far-reaching recommendations that resulted in new courses, such as the three-year Master of Computer Applications. In 1982, he returned to the IISc, where he headed the Supercomputer Education and Research Centre until 1994.

Despite his contributions as a teacher, policymaker, industry consultant, and author, he shunned the limelight and continued his pursuits even after he turned 90. His latest book was published in June 2024.

(Dinesh C. Sharma is a journalist based in New Delhi, and author of *The Outsourcer: The Story of India's IT Revolution*)

India airlifts 197 citizens rescued from cybercrime centres in south Myanmar

Kallop Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Continuing with its operations to repatriate Indian nationals who were employed in the cyberscams centres of southern Myanmar, the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday evacuated 197 Indian nationals from Thailand's Mae Sot.

The Indian embassy in Thailand said Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul came to Mae Sot to oversee the operation.

"Both sides reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to combating transnational crimes, including cyber scams and human trafficking in the region, and to enhance cooperation among the relevant agencies in both countries for this purpose," said the Indian embassy in a statement.

to Thailand where they were detained for entering without valid documents.

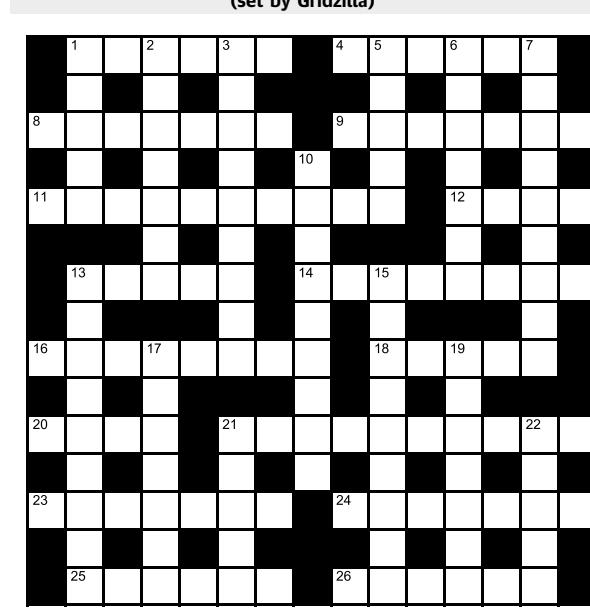
"Embassy of India, Bangkok and Consulate of India in Chiang Mai, in close coordination with various agencies of the Royal Thai Government, facilitated this repatriation. This is part of Government of India's sustained efforts to ensure safety and security of Indian nationals while in distress overseas," said the Indian embassy in Bangkok in a statement.

Mr. Charnvirakul had expressed his government's determination to stem the cyberfraud centres of Myanmar.

Authorities here had told *The Hindu* that the Indian nationals who are being airlifted would be subjected to detailed questioning.

TH CROSSWORD

14636



Across

- 1 Most attractive officer is trim (3,3)
- 4 Address of number one boarding school (5)
- 8 Public unlikely to avoid bars in general? (7)
- 9 Winning's delightful, and in general, inspiring! (7)
- 11 Start process to check source of income tax (10)
- 12 Only person in the auditorium? (4)

Solve this puzzle
access more
<https://crosswo>

MONTHLY NEWSPAPERS

FREE VERSION

- 4 PM [NOT FIX]
- 2 MIN PROCESS
- POP UP ADS
- QUALITY DECREASED
- NO SUPPORT [COMMENT CLOSED]
- non editable
- 3 days delete



PAID VERSION

- 6:20 AM DAILY
- 5 SEC PROCESS
- NO ADS
- HIGH QUALIT
- 24/7 SUPPORT
- EASY AND FAST
- SPECIFIC APP
- PDF+view
- 2 magazine/m
- editable
- 3+ MONTHS
- SPECIAL
- TELEGRAM GRP

FAITH

Unwavering devotion

Placing complete trust in God and following the principles of dharmic living regardless of circumstances will endear one to the Almighty. Such unwavering faith is not only its own reward in one's spiritual journey in life but will also fetch one His eternal protection, said P. Swaminathan.

Our spiritual history is replete with examples of staunch devotees, hailing from humble backgrounds, who remained steadfast despite trying circumstances, knowing that God would protect them. Devotion enriches the faithful, said Bhagwan Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Long ago, there lived a weaver who was a true follower of Lord Rama. When he took his woven cloth to the market at periodic intervals, he prefaced his interactions with the customers there, saying, "According to Lord Rama, this cloth costs..." Soon he became familiar to all as the true devotee of Rama who was honest, upright and god-fearing.

One night he faced an unexpected challenge: he was caught by the city guards with a bag of stolen goods and imprisoned. At court, he said, according to Lord Rama's advice, he had his dinner the night of his arrest and was sitting on the porch. Again, following Rama's advice, four men arrived there with a big bundle. They sought help to carry the bundle and he obliged. As they were walking carrying the bundle, the guards arrived. The others ran away but he stood there, as per Rama's wish. A number of villagers appeared in the court to testify on their own volition. Each villager spoke highly of the weaver's high character, noble qualities and his principled way of living, fashioned after Lord Rama. The judge ordered his release and also praised his devotion to and faith in Rama.

IN BRIEF



Novo Nordisk, Emcure to roll out weight loss drug Poviztra

Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk announced a partnership with Emcure Pharma on Monday to launch its Poviztra, semaglutide injection 2.4 mg, in India. Poviztra is the second brand of its weight loss drug Wegovy that Novo Nordisk will be launching in India. The collaboration will strengthen the distribution and marketing, particularly through pharmacies and in regions beyond those currently served by Novo Nordisk India, the two companies said in a statement.

ISMA welcomes sugar export permit announcement

The government's decision to permit 15 lakh tonnes of sugar for export during the current sugar season will enable the sugar mills to plan their production in advance and channel surplus sugar into global markets, said the Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA). As a long-term measure, the ISMA strongly urged for revision of the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar, which has remained unchanged for over six years.

HUDCO launches one-stop investment facilitator

The Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) on Monday launched the 'Urban Invest Window', a one-stop investment facilitator for Indian cities to support fast growth. The 'UiWIN' initiative was launched by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the National Urban Conclave here. UiWIN is expected to facilitate more investments in cities from multiple sources – which are faster and on better terms.

Rural unemployment down, urban joblessness up, finds government survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Labour Bureau for the July-September 2025 quarter show unemployment rate among persons aged 15 years and above in rural areas declined to 4.4% during the period from 4.8% in the previous quarter.

The PLFS also showed urban unemployment rate had "edged up slightly", with rates increasing from 6.1% to 6.2% for males, and from 8.9% to 9.0% for females, during the same period. Overall, the unemployment rate among persons aged 15 years and above dropped to 5.2% in July-September, 2025 from 5.4% in the previous quarter.



Rural workforce continued to concentrate in agri sector.

Nephrocare gets SEBI's nod for IPO

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dialysis provider Nephrocare Health Services has secured SEBI's approval to raise funds through an IPO.

The proposed IPO is a combination of an offer-for-sale of 1.27 crore equity shares by the selling shareholders and a fresh issue of ₹353.4 crore.

The company proposes to utilise the net proceeds of the fresh issue towards capital expenditure of ₹129.1 crore for opening dialysis clinics in India; ₹136 crore for pre-payment or scheduled repayment of certain borrowings availed and rest on general corporate purposes.

New business of life insurers rises 12% in Oct. to ₹34,007 crore

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

New business premium of life insurance companies in India increased 12% in October to ₹34,006.95 crore compared with ₹30,347.60 crore a year earlier.

The increase in the new business or the first-year premium came on the back of a surge in the number of policies and schemes sold by them at 19,53,996 (12,01,214).

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which is the market leader, reported a more than 12% increase in the

new business premium to ₹19,274.01 crore (₹17,131.09 crore). The number of policies/schemes it sold in October stood at 12,59,739 (57,918).

The 26 private life insurers together posted a more than 11% increase in new business at ₹14,732.94 crore as against ₹13,216.51 crore in the same period previous fiscal.

The policies/scheme sold by them totalled 6,94,257 (6,28,296). For the seven months ended October, in the fiscal, the first-year premium of the life insurers increased 8.25% to ₹2,37,675.11 crore (₹2,19,561.64 crore).

Lenskart opens 1.7% lower than issue price

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Lenskart Solutions Ltd. listed at ₹395 a share, which was 1.7% lower than the issue price of ₹402, on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Monday.

On the BSE, the stock listed at ₹390, down 3% from the issue price. The stock fell to an intraday low of ₹356.1 a share after which it hit a high of ₹413.75 and closed at ₹403.1 on the first day of trading on the NSE.

The firm faced criticism for its expensive valuation, with the price-to-earnings ratio as high as 235 times.

Centre yet again seeks auto industry inputs on EV import policy

The policy failed to attract bidders before last month's deadline expired; industry given three weeks' time to submit its recommendations

Jagruti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The government has once again invited suggestions from the auto industry on its electric vehicle (EV) import policy, which offers duty concessions in exchange for local manufacturing commitments, after failing to attract any bidders before last month's deadline expired.

In June, the government invited auto players to submit their interest for the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars (SPMEPC) in India, which permits automakers to import up to 8,000 EVs at a reduced duty rate of 15%, compared with the current 70-100%, provided they commit to invest ₹4,150 crore in local EV manufacturing.

However, the deadline for submissions, which



No takers: Auto-makers could be waiting for import concessions to be offered under the India-EU trade pact, says an official. REUTERS

ended on October 21, passed without a single applicant. Subsequently, the Ministry of Heavy Industries held a round of consultation with the auto industry in the last week of October, seeking suggestions. "If these suggestions are viable, we may reopen [the application window]," a government official said.

The industry has been given three weeks to submit recommendations to the policy. To a question

on why auto players did not show interest, the official said one of the reasons was the ongoing negotiations for India-EU trade agreement and the import concessions that could be offered under it.

The government has also received suggestions to include ICE vehicles under the scheme. However, the official said while "minor changes could be made, the fundamentals cannot be altered."

The release added that the amendment seeks to empower consumers to make informed purchasing decisions by allowing them

E-com sites may have to disclose country of origin of goods sold

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A set of draft rules released on Monday by the Union Department of Consumer Affairs has proposed to make it mandatory for e-commerce platforms to provide 'searchable and sortable filters' based on the 'country of origin' for packaged commodities sold online.

"This will enhance consumer empowerment and transparency in online shopping," the government said in a release.

The Draft Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second) Amendment Rules, 2025, proposes to add in rule 6, in sub-rule (10) of the existing rules that: "Provided that every e-commerce entity selling imported products shall provide a searchable and sortable filter for the country of origin, with their product listings."

The release added that the amendment seeks to empower consumers to make informed purchasing decisions by allowing them



The amendment will ensure transparency, the Centre said.

to easily identify the origin of products while shopping online. "The proposed feature will enable consumers to search and sort products by their country of origin, thereby enhancing transparency and reducing the time required to locate such information across vast product listings," it said.

Stakeholders can submit their observations and comment on the draft rules to the government till November 22, 2025. "The amendment directly supports the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Vocal for Local' initiatives by making 'Made in India' products easily discoverable," the Centre added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,535	0.38
US Dollar	88.73	-0.09
Gold	1,25,900	1.04
Brent oil	63.44	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2370.70	1.30
Adani Ports.	1444.90	3.40
Apollo Hosp.	7529.50	-112.50
Asian Paints	2650.40	36.60
Axis Bank	1217.00	5.80
Bajaj Auto.	8772.00	50.50
Bajaj FinServ.	2118.30	16.20
Bajaj Finance	1085.00	18.40
Bharat Elec.	416.85	2.60
Bharti Airtel	2019.80	18.60
Cipla	1511.50	5.80
Coal India	381.35	5.35
Dr Reddy's Lab.	1198.70	6.70
Tata Motors CV	260.75	0.00
Eicher Motors	6866.50	-19.50
Eterna Ltd.	301.45	-4.65
Grasim Ind.	2762.90	38.30
HCL Tech.	1540.50	28.10
HFDC Bank	984.50	2.20
Hindalco	785.20	5.20
Hindustan Unilever	2408.80	5.20
ICICI Bank	1348.00	5.00
IntGlobeAvi.	5588.50	5.00
Infosys	1513.50	36.70
ITC	405.55	1.50
Jio Financial Servic- es Ltd.	301.95	2.65
JSW Steel	1179.30	7.60
Kotak Bank	2092.70	4.40
L&T	3918.50	36.00
M&M	3663.90	-26.30
Maruti Suzuki	15583.00	104.00
Max Healthcare	1098.00	-37.30
NestleIndia	1262.90	0.20
NTPC	325.45	-0.65
ONGC	251.40	-0.80
PowerGrid Corp	268.20	-3.80
Reliance Ind.	1489.30	11.30
SBI Life	1989.30	9.60
State Bank	951.15	-4.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	821.10	4.75
Sun Pharma	1697.80	6.40
Tata ConsumerPro- duct	1142.70	-24.50
Tata Steel	181.48	0.11
TCS	3025.20	33.40
Tech Mahindra	1397.80	11.10
Titan	3803.00	33.70
Tata Motors PV	410.45	4.75
Trent Ltd.	4283.70	-343.60
UltraTech Cement	11728.00	-121.00
Wipro	239.84	3.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	88.54	88.87
Euro	102.32	102.72
British Pound	116.46	116.92
Japanese Yen (100)	57.42	57.64
Chinese Yuan	12.43	12.49
Swiss Franc	109.83	110.24
Singapore Dollar	67.93	68.20
Canadian Dollar	63.16	63.42
Malaysian Ringgit	21.26	21.38
Australian Dollar	57.82	58.04

Source: Indian Bank

Jio Infocomm Ltd. – have shifted to at least 4G, if not 5G, technologies, which should enable them to provide high speed internet and high quality calls over technologies like VoLTE (voice over LTE) and VoNR (voice over 5G networks).

However, telcos largely seem to be using analogue interconnection technologies for calls between their subscribers and people on other networks, leading to a noticeable dip in quality in phone calls outside a telecom firm's network.

Steel and aluminium products, especially those made by MSMEs, should be included in the ongoing negotiations with the U.S. for a bilateral trade agreement, EEPIC India said.

The Engineering Export Promotion Council of India also suggested maintaining status quo in quota and the

out-of-quota tariffs while negotiating a free trade agreement with the European Union.

Chairman Pankaj Chadha said the 50% tariff under Section 232 by the U.S. has significantly impacted engineering exports to the U.S. market, necessitating the inclusion of specified products in the BTA negotiations.

"The 50% tariff imposed by the U.S. increases the tariff differential with our competitors to an average of 30%. A special support package that can absorb at least 15% of this differential would help us to secure our position," Mr. Chadha said.

The new EU proposal on reducing quotas and increasing out-of-quota tariffs to 50% is a cause for concern, he added.

Bengaluru West City Corporation-Malleshwaram Zone

Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross Road, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560 054.

No. EE/MLM/Kppp/05/2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IIFT)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal) website: <a href="

WASHINGTON

Syria's al-Sharaa meets Trump in first-ever White House visit



Syria's President Ahmed al-Sharaa met U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on Monday for unprecedented talks, just days after Washington removed him from a terrorism blacklist. Mr. Sharaa, whose rebel forces ousted longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad last year, is the first Syrian leader to visit the White House. AP

MOSCOW

Russia says Ukraine cannot win war, claims it seized more villages



Russia said it was delusional to think Ukraine could win the war, while Moscow's army said it had seized three more villages. "The Europeans believe Ukraine can win the war and secure its interests through military means. This is the deepest delusion indulged in by the Kyiv regime," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. AP

WASHINGTON

Trump pardons Giuliani, others accused of overturning 2020 polls



U.S. President Donald Trump has pardoned his former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani (in picture), his former Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and others accused of backing the Republicans' efforts to overturn the 2020 election, the government's pardon attorney Ed Martin said in a social media post. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan says 20 militants killed in military action near Afghan border



Pakistani security forces killed 20 Pakistani Taliban insurgents in raids on hideouts in the northwest region bordering Afghanistan, the military said on Monday. Eight militants were killed in North Waziristan, a former Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan stronghold, and 12 others were killed in a separate raid in Dara Adam Khel district. AP

'An institutional shift towards an open society needs time to take root'

'We have brought about many changes in our political culture; we have been very responsive to governance, we have allowed people to process what we are trying to do,' says Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, adding that taking the state machinery along has been challenging

INTERVIEW

**Harini
Amarasuriya**

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

A year into the National People's Power (NPP) government, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya reflects on its achievements, the road ahead for economic reform, the challenges of pursuing justice and ethnic reconciliation, and what real change entails for the country, in this interview to *The Hindu*. Edited excerpts:



In September this year, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake completed one year in office. This month, the parliament completes a year. What has been the biggest success and challenge for your government?

Our success, I think, has been stability. Winning over the sceptics – who had the biggest fear that we would not be able to handle this, that we were inexperienced, that we did not know what we were talking about, did not have a plan, or that we are a bunch of communists. There was this huge fear that this was going to be unsuccessful, and that we would not be able to govern. I think we have proved everyone wrong.

We have brought about many changes in our political culture. We are not being ex-

travagant or flashing our power all around. We have been very responsive to governance, we have allowed people to process what we are trying to do, and if there is resistance, we have adjusted. Some see that as a sign of weakness, but we don't. Strength comes from not abusing power, when you have a lot of it. In terms of challenge, it is not only about the politicians changing, right? You must take this big state machinery along with you. That has been the frustration – that things have not moved faster at the grassroots level.

Your coalition has acknowledged that the ongoing IMF programme is hard on ordinary people and had promised to renegotiate it. Why hasn't that been possible?

We had said we cannot renegotiate the whole terms of reference, or all the parameters which were earlier agreed upon with the IMF, since that would have led to further chaos, further destabilisation. I don't think we could

have dealt with that, especially with the expectation that we would fail. To consolidate ourselves, we had to make sure we did not fail in the first instance. With that limitation, we have negotiated many things within those parameters, which are not entirely obvious, like [public] spending. We gave a significant public sector pay rise, incrementally brought in welfare benefits, raised capital expenditure on health and education. Those negotiations were not easily made, they were tough, but they are less dramatic. So, perhaps the feeling is that we have not negotiated, but I don't think that is a correct assessment.

You recently underscored a "home-grown process" to deal with allegations of past human rights violations. How will your government win the trust of war-affected Tamils?

We are not talking about a "home-grown solution" just because it is popular – we genuinely believe that is what will work in the long run and help prevent polarisation. Lo-

cal systems must be designed to handle these issues; we cannot simply hand over responsibility to others. We must take ownership. The key, as you said, is trust, and that will take a lot of effort. This is also where we would welcome more dialogue with civil society – discussions that recognise we are a new government, the need to build a new narrative.

What do you mean by new narrative?

For years, we have had a particular way of understanding ethnic relations: what happened, who is to blame, and what needs to happen. Have we brought that up to speed with current realities and challenges? How might a generation born after the war be thinking and feeling about these issues? Also, many of our analyses rarely bring in the class factor. Our narratives about the war, ethnicity, and violence have missed that entire dimension.

Where does the NPP's promise to bring in a new constitution stand?

We have not fixed dates for it, but that has to happen. We have also said we are willing to start from where we left off in that earlier consultative process – and not reinvent the whole wheel. Of course, things have shifted since then, so there is a lot to consider. The Provincial Council elections need to take place, and that is targeted for next year. Funds have been allocated, and the Election Commission will have to work out

the details – after looking into whether a new law is needed, or Parliament agrees to proceed with the old system. In our first two years, our priority will be on the economic side of things, because we cannot afford to let that ball drop. Also, an institutional shift towards a more open, inclusive society and structures, including an inclusive constitution needs time to take root. Otherwise, we risk falling back into the "them versus us" mentality.

What were your key takeaways from your recent, back-to-back visits to China and India?

The enormous goodwill was evident. Leaders and other officials from both countries showed great interest in Sri Lanka and expressed strong goodwill – wanting to engage, to help, and recognising Sri Lanka's importance to them.

Is there pressure on Sri Lanka while dealing with two major partners with competing interests?

I think we will always have to be careful about how we balance the different regional leaders and their ambitions. But in some ways, global changes are making this easier for us. Traditional lines of friendship and enmity no longer work the same way – the axis has clearly shifted towards this region. If we manage our relations wisely, I do not think we will face any undue pressure.

(For full interview: newsht.live/Harini)

U.S. Senate deal puts govt. closer to ending shutdown

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate took a major step toward ending the longest government shutdown in American history when it cleared the way for a formal debate on a motion to resume funding to federal agencies.

The development represents significant progress toward ending a government shutdown that has dragged on for over 40 days, halted funding to federal programs and disrupted air travel and other essential industries.

The breakthrough on Sunday came after Republican and Democratic lawmakers reached a stopgap agreement to fund the government through January, after wrangling over healthcare subsidies, food benefits and Trump's firings of federal employees.

Following the deal, the Republican-led chamber approved a procedural vote by 60 votes to 40, put-

ting a hard limit on how much longer senators can discuss the legislative measure.

It will still need approval from the Republican-controlled House of Representatives before it lands on President Donald Trump's desk – a process which could take days. As the news emerged, Mr. Trump told reporters: "It looks like we're getting very close to the shutdown ending."

Democratic Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia was among the eight who joined Republicans to support the measure, saying: "I need a moratorium on the punishing of the federal workforce."

Republican Senator John Thune celebrated the win, and what it could mean for Americans facing financial strain. "After 40 days of uncertainty, I'm glad to be able to announce that nutrition programs, our veterans, and other critical priorities will have their full-year funding," Mr. Thune said.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.

No. ME-3/2025/2703 Lucknow : Dated 10/11/2025

TIME SCHEDULE FOR "STRAY VACANCY ROUND" OF U.P. NEET UG COUNSELING 2025 (M.B.B.S./B.D.S.)

In accordance with the schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for the NEET UG course, the schedule for the STRAY VACANCY ROUND of online counseling for admission to state quota seats in undergraduate courses (MBBS/BDS) in government/private medical/dental colleges/institutions/medical universities is as follows :-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1.	Date of online registration and uploading of documents	From:- 11-11-2025 (12:00 PM) To:- 14-11-2025 (11:00 AM)	03 Days
2.	Date of depositing registration and security money	From:- 11-11-2025 (12:00 PM) To:- 14-11-2025 (02:00 PM)	04 Days
3.	Date of Merit List Declaration	On:- 14-11-2025	01 Days
4.	Date of On-line Choice filling	From:- 14-11-2025 (05:00 PM) To:- 17-11-2025 (11:00 AM)	03 Days
5.	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	On:- 17-11-2025	01 Days
6.	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	From:- 18-11-2025 To:- 20-11-2025	03 Days

As per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of U.P. NEET UG 2025, candidates should assess their eligibility themselves.

Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the online registration process, whose original documents have been verified online, and who have deposited the required security amount.

The U.P. NEET UG 2025 information booklet (brochure) and important instructions are available on the websites www.upneet.in and www.dgme-up.gov.in. Keep checking websites regularly for updated information.

The said counseling will be subject to the final orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad, Lucknow Bench, in Special Appeal No. 295/2025, Uttar Pradesh State & Others vs. Sabra Ahmad.

Helpline Numbers: 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:

BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED

BIAL Project Office, Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru

Bangalore 560 300 Web: www.bengaluruairport.com

NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S. No.	Tender Title	Short description of scope of work
1	Elevated Walkway connecting Airport Terminal Metro Station (ATMS) and Terminal-1 (T1) & Associated works	The Contractor shall be fully responsible for the end-to-end execution of the project, encompassing, but not limited to Excavation, Civil, Structural, Interior Finishing works, Architectural, MEP, ICT, Landscape and Softscape related works, ORAT, VHT, Systems and Equipment, across Landside and Terminal. This responsibility includes securing all necessary statutory approvals. The Contractor shall ensure seamless coordination with Design Consultants, the Project Management Consultants (PMC), relevant authorities, and all other stakeholders to ensure the successful completion of Works. The successful contractor will be required to coordinate with all related works contractors for the completion of this project.

The project objective is to develop a state-of-the-art walkway that blends with the surrounding ecosystem, ensures seamless connectivity incorporates sustainable and energy-efficient practices, and is executed with minimal operational disruption during construction.

Overall walkway internal width: 8.5 m (approximately)

Overall Length of Walkway: 190 m (approximately)

Overall Deck Width: 10 m (approximately)

Total Deck Area: 1900 sqm (approximately)

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Information: Available on BIAL website www.bengaluruairport.com under Tenders section.

Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 24th November 2025 at IST 1700 Hours.

Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E-Mail: projecttenders@bialairport.com.

To submit EOI, register and login to BIAL E-Tendering website (<https://www.bialtenders.com>), Event ID: 3558.

Note: Any Further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.

Name and address of the entity seeking EOLs:

Vice President - Procurement & Contracts

Bangalore International Airport Ltd.,

BIAL Project Office, Kempegowda International Airport,

Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300 Email: projecttenders@bialairport.com, Phone No: 080- 66782622, www.bengaluruairport.com

Sriram Lakshman

LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to sue the BBC for at least \$1 billion over the way it edited a video of a speech he gave on January 6, 2021, before a mob of his supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol. A letter sent to the BBC from Mr. Trump's lawyer demanded a full apology, retraction of the documentary and for the BBC to "appropriately compensate" Mr. Trump.

BBC Director General Tim Davie and its new chief Deborah Turness had resigned on Sunday after it became widely known that the BBC's Panorama show had spliced clips together from different parts of Mr. Trump's January 6 speech. The Trump video gained wide publicity following a leak, by the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, of a memo written by former BBC advisor Michael Prescott, in

which he had criticized the BBC's coverage of Mr. Trump as well as transgender issues and Gaza.

The BBC made an "error of judgement" in the way in which it edited a video, BBC Chair Samir Shah told a U.K. Parliamentary Committee on Monday. "We accept the way in which the speech was edited did give the impression of a direct call for violent action," Mr. Shah wrote in a letter to the U.K. Parliament, adding, "The BBC would like to apol-

ogise for that error of judgement."

Asked in an interview on Monday if Mr. Trump would be suing the BBC, Mr. Shah said he did not know but that Mr. Trump was a "litigious fellow" and the BBC should be prepared for all outcomes. However, the letter from Mr. Trump's lawyer was addressed to Mr. Shah and apparently emailed to him.

"The White House is now telling us which news we should watch. Think about that for a bit," a well known U.K. TV host Kirstie Allsop said on X.

Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch welcomed the BBC resignations, as she called for tighter control of BBC Arabic.



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For early pdf click here <https://t.me/topicalepaper>

MORE THE MERRIER

We want to have seven to eight bowling options in T20Is: Gambhir



In the Gautam Gambhir era, India has preferred to have batting till number eight. "Look the more the merrier (all-rounders), that is something which is important, it is always better to have more options... this T20 side we have got seven or eight bowling options, which is always important," the Indian team's head coach said.

MAKING A CASE

Ganguly backs Shami, says he should play across formats



Former India captain Sourav Ganguly wants to see Mohammed Shami back in the Indian team across formats as he reckons the pacer is "fit and is bowling exceptionally well." He said, "Shami is bowling exceptionally well. He is fit and we saw in the three Ranji Trophy matches, where he's won matches for Bengal on his own."

ALL READY

Root lands in Australia, hits the nets ahead of the Ashes



Star England batter Joe Root arrived in Australia ahead of the Ashes, which begins with the first Test at Perth on November 21. Root hit the nets on Monday. "I feel I am in a different place to when I last went out there. I haven't got the responsibility of captaincy and I am a lot more experienced," he said.

LATEST UPDATE

Samrat shoots down gold at Worlds, Tomar clinches bronze



Samrat Rana, left, clinched India's maiden gold in an Olympic event, winning the 10m air pistol with 243.7 points, at the ISSF World Championships in Cairo on Monday while Varun Tomar took bronze. Tomar (221.7) ended behind China's Kai Hu (243.3). Samrat, Tomar and Sharvan Kumar finished on top in the team event.

India's hopes rest on Arjun and Praggnanandhaa

The duo has reached the round-of-32 in contrasting styles; Pranav, Harikrishna and Karthik will aim to put their best foot forward as sterner tests await; Keymer, Aronian and Vachier-Lagrave among the top players still in the fray

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

There were 206 of them. Now it is down to 32. The chess World Cup is moving towards its business end, promising plenty of action on the black-and-white squares. After a day's rest - well earned by the players, many of whom have had to go through the nerve-wracking tie-breakers - the fourth round gets underway at Resort Rio here on Tuesday.

Early exit

Among those 32 men isn't the top seed. D. Gukesh was ousted by Germany's Frederik Svane in the third round. So, the miserable year continues for the 19-year-old from Chennai. Not much has gone right for him after winning the World championship last year.

He isn't the only big seed to say an early goodbye to the beaches of Goa, though. Anish Giri, Wesley



The ones to beat: Praggnanandhaa and Arjun survived even as some of the favourites bit the dust. FIDE

So, Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Shakhray Mamedyarov - all among the top 10 - have been knocked out.

The second and third seeds are still in the hunt, however.

Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa were always India's big hopes at this tournament. Their progress has been in contrasting styles, though: Praggnanandhaa has had to survive some anxious

moments, but Arjun has been solid, winning his first three classical games and then drawing the fourth.

And he has to come up with his best. Arjun needs to finish inside the top three at the World Cup to entertain realistic hopes of making it to the Candidates, the event that will decide Gukesh's challenger for the next World

championship.

In the fourth round, he faces the Hungarian veteran Peter Leko, while Praggnanandhaa will meet Russia's Daniil Dubov. V. Pranav, P. Harikrishna and Karthik Venkataraman are the other Indians who have advanced to the fourth round. More was expected from the likes of Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin and Aravindh Chithambaram, who

lost to Karthik in the second round.

Having said that, the knockout format is ungenerous, and it isn't that surprising that so many seeds have already fallen. The remaining ones, including Vincenzo Keymer, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Richard Rapport and Levon Aronian, should know they have to be careful if they don't want to join that list.

The pairings (fourth round):

Frederik Svane (Ger) vs Shant Sargsyan (Arm); Peter Leko (Hung) vs Arjun Erigaisi (R); Praggnanandhaa vs Daniil Dubov (Rus); Matthias Bluebaum (Ger) vs Alexander Donchenko (Ger). V. Pranav vs Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb); Andrey Esipenko (Rus) vs Vincent Keymer (Ger); Wei Yi (Chn) vs Parham Maghsoudloo (Ira); Alexey Sarana (Srb) vs Jose Martinez Alcantara (Mex); Nils Grandelius (Swe) vs P. Harikrishna; Samuel Sevian (USA) vs Lorenzo Lodici (Ita); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) vs Aleksey Grebnev (Rus); Amondi Liang (USA) vs Gabriel Sargissian (Arm); Le Quang Liem (Vie) vs Karthik Venkataraman; Sam Shankland (USA) vs Richard Rapport (Hun); Levon Aronian (USA) vs Radoslaw Wojtaszek (Pol); Yu Yangyi (Chn) vs Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb).

Norris dedicates Sao Paulo win to former mentor

FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
SAO PAULO

Lando Norris, who extended his lead in the drivers' World championship to 24 points ahead of McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri with Sunday's dramatic Sao Paulo Grand Prix, dedicated the win to the late Gil de Ferran, a former driver who nurtured his early career.

"It's so nice to win in Brazil at this amazing track. This is for Gil... my mentor a few years ago."

It was Norris' seventh win of the season and the 11th of his career, moving him within sight of a first title with a comfortable advantage ahead of Piastri.

Though Norris took the honours, it was Red Bull's Max Verstappen who stole the show by racing from a pit-lane start to finish third.

The results:

1. Lando Norris (McLaren) 1hr 32min 01.596sec, 2. Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes) + 10.388s, 3. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 10.750, 4. George Russell (Mercedes) 15.267, 5. Oscar Piastri (McLaren) 15.749, 6. Oliver Bearman (Haas) 29.630, 7. Liam Lawson (Racing Bulls) 52.642, 8. Isack Hadjar (Racing Bulls) 52.873, 9. Nico Hulkenberg (Sauber) 53.324, 10. Pierre Gasly (Alpine) 53.914, 11.



The journey in numbers after the 71-lap race in Brazil

2 Antonelli's career-best result to date

4 Norris equalled Massa and Barrichello for fourth on the list of most wins without winning a title

7 Norris is tied with Piastri for most wins in 2025

9 McLaren went level with Ferrari for most victories at Interlagos

11 All of Norris' wins have come at different circuits, setting a new record

1 A McLaren driver won in Brazil for the first time since Button in 2012

1 Verstappen became the first driver to finish on the podium after starting from the pit lane since Hamilton at the 2014 Hungarian GP, and only the eighth in F1 history

3 Ferrari now has three point-less Grands Prix this year, its most in a season since 2020



Hamilton (Ferrari). **World championship standings (top five): Drivers:** 1. Norris 390 points, 2. Piastri 366, 3. Verstappen 341, 4. Russell 276, 5. Leclerc 214. **Constructors:** 1. McLaren 756 points (champion), 2. Mercedes 398, 3. Red Bull 366, 4. Ferrari 362, 5. Williams 111.

Prospective investors shy away from ISL bid due to unsatisfactory representation

FOOTBALL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Investors interested in becoming the Indian Super League's commercial partner shied away for a lack of representation in the league's governing council, according to feedback received by KPMG, the firm managing the bid-

ding process.

It is learnt that there were five companies or conglomerates that showed interest and put up scores of queries to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to understand the bidding process.

The commercial partner, if and when selected, would be associated with the league for 15 years.

But none of them - including Football Sports

Development Limited (FSDL), which ran the league between 2014 and 2025 - eventually placed a bid, with the window slamming shut at 5 p.m. on Friday.

One slot

Sources indicate that the commercial partner is offered just one slot of the six in ISL's governing council - a weightage of approximately 17%, one that

did not sit well with potential investors.

The composition of the council was done in accordance with the new AIFF constitution approved by the Supreme Court.

In light of this development, AIFF's Bid Evaluation Committee, led by (Retd.) Justice L. Nageswara Rao, met on Sunday, with the final report set to be submitted to the apex court as the next step.



Lewandowski 'tricks', Barcelona posts win

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
VIGO

Robert Lewandowski hit a hat-trick to help Barcelona beat Celta Vigo 4-2 on Sunday in LaLiga and cut Real Madrid's lead down to three points.

The veteran Polish striker helped Hansi Flick's side capitalise on Madrid's 0-0 draw earlier on at Rayo Vallecano.

Lamine Yamal also scored for Barca in another gripping game produced by the champion's attacking approach, and Marcus Rashford produced two more assists.

Frenkie de Jong was sent off late on for Barca for two yellow cards, but by then the champion had secured its victory.

Meanwhile, Inter Milan moved to the top of Serie A with a 2-0 home win over Lazio, sealed by goals from Lautaro Martinez early in the first half and Angel Yann Bonny after the interval.

The result lifted Inter to the summit, level on 24 points with second-placed AS Roma, which secured a 2-0 home victory over Udinese earlier.

Top results: LaLiga: Valencia 1 (Rioja 82) drew with Real Betis 1 (Cuchu 74); Mallorca 1 (Muriqui 14) bt Getafe 0; Celta Vigo 2 (Carreira 11, Iglesias 43) lost to Barcelona 4 (Lewandowski 10-pen, 37, 73, Yamal 45+4).

Serie A: Roma 2 (Pellegrini 42-pen, Celik 61) bt Udinese 0; Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 3, Bonny 61) bt Lazio 0.

Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Doan 80) bt Mainz 0; Stuttgart 3 (Mittelstaedt 18-pen, Uend 39, 80) bt Augsburg 2 (Rieder 8, Massengo 26).

Amid uncertainty around the Indian Super League (ISL), Kerala Blasters (KBFC) became the third top-flight club - after Odisha FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant - to temporarily suspend operations, following its exit from the Super Cup.

"We were expecting it (clarity on the ISL) to happen earlier this month, as per the timelines. But I know it's a very pivotal point in the history of the Indian football ecosystem," Abhik Chatterjee, KBFC's CEO, told the *The Hindu*. "There's a lot that needs

to be considered before making decisions. But equally, if you understand from a club standpoint, we are staring into an abyss with no information, which is not good."

KBFC had initially

planned its pre-season on July 7, but the lack of clarity on ISL put a pause on the preparations. The AIFF then convinced the club to enter the Super Cup, so that by the time the tournament was over, a solution

to the ISL deadlock would have been found.

Accordingly, KBFC began the pre-season nearly three weeks before the Super Cup, on October 7.

However, the situation has not gotten better, since the tender for a new commercial partner for ISL has found no bidders, leading to KBFC hitting the pause button yet again.

"It puts a lot of stress on the owners, obviously, the players, and the staff, because there are specialised staff whose livelihood depends on football," Abhik added. "But I would like to remain an optimist and hope that the sooner we have clarity, the better."

Fritz breezes past Musetti; Zverev downs Shelton



Racing away: Fritz was out of the blocks quickly. AP

ATP FINALS

Agence France-Presse
TURIN

Taylor Fritz got his bid for a first ATP Finals crown off to the best possible start with a comprehensive 6-3, 6-4 win over home favourite Lorenzo Musetti in the Jimmy Connors Group here on Monday.

The 28-year-old American, who lost in last year's final to Jannik Sinner, was out of the blocks quickly, taking an early break and holding on to pocket the first set. The crowd did its best to lift a visibly fatigued Musetti who was a late addition to the line-up.

He only qualified for the Finals on Saturday after Novak Djokovic pulled out

with injury, shortly after beating the Italian in the final of the Athens event.

Winning 84% of his first serves and giving away just four break point chances, none of which were taken, Fritz continued to control the match.

The American broke to go 3-1 up and served cleanly all the way to the line.

He joins Carlos Alcaraz at the top of the group.

Former champion Alexander Zverev scored a 6-3, 7-6(6) win over Ben Shelton on Sunday in the first match of the Bjorn Borg Group.

In a meeting between two of the biggest servers in the sport, Zverev broke the American fifth seed twice in the opener to edge ahead after less than half-an-hour on court.



Staring into abyss: The lack of clarity on ISL has forced the club to pause on its operations for the second time. KBFC MEDIA

"There's a lot that needs

IN BRIEF



Fourth T20I between NZ and WI abandoned

The fourth T20I between New Zealand and West Indies was abandoned because of rain at Nelson on Monday after less than seven overs of play. New Zealand remains 2-1 up in the series with the fifth and final match scheduled in Dunedin on Thursday. The West Indies had reached 38 for one off 6.3 overs after being asked to bat.

The scores: West Indies 38/1 in 6.3 overs vs New Zealand; **Toss:** New Zealand. No Result.

Chotrani loses to Cardenas in St. James squash final

India's Veer Chotrani suffered a 1-3 loss to Mexican top seed Leonel Cardenas in the final of the St. James Expression Open, a PSA Copper event, in Springfield, USA. World no. 51 Chotrani, seeded fifth, rallied to win the second game to level the score, but his opponent, ranked 15 in the world, stepped up to take control, closing out the contest 13-11, 4-11, 11-4, 11-3.

Indian teams make the final of Asian archery c'ships

Indian men's recurve and women's compound teams reached respective title clashes at the Asian archery championships in Doha on Monday. India will meet Korea in both the finals.

The results: Recurve: Team:
Men: India (Yashdeep Bhoge, Atanu Das, Rahul) bt Turkmenistan 6-2 (1st round), bt Malaysia 6-0 (quarterfinal), bt Kazakhstan 5-3 (semifinal).
Compound: Team: Women: India (Deepshikha, V. Jyothi Surekha, Prithika Pradeep) bt Vietnam 235-225 (quarterfinal), bt Bangladesh 234-227 (semifinal).

Manu and Esha miss out on 10m air pistol medal

Manu Bhaker and Esha Singh suffered a meltdown in the women's 10m air pistol final as both could not win a medal in the ISSF World championships in Cairo on Monday. Manu had things going her way in the final before an 8.8 on the 14th shot saw her take a mighty tumble from the top spot to seventh as she finished with 139.5. Esha, too, faltered with an 8.4 on the 14th shot, after a 10.7, to finish sixth in the eight-shooter final. China's Yao Qianxun shot 243.0 for gold while Hong Kong-China's Ho Ching Shing (241.2) and Wei Qian (China, 221.4) took the silver and bronze respectively. India won the team silver with Esha (583), Manu (580) and Suruchi Inder Singh (577) aggregating 1740. India is fifth in the table with one gold, three silver and two bronze. China is leading with six gold, three silver and two bronze medals.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Ireland: 1st Test, day 1, FanCode, 9.30 a.m.
Chess: World Cup, FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.

SNAPSHOTS

Jyoti to lead India

Jyoti Singh will continue to lead the Indian team as Hockey India named a 20-member squad for the upcoming FIH Women's Junior World Cup, scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, from November 25 to December 13. The 20-member squad, coached by former India international Tushar Khandker, features 18 players and two alternates. India has been placed in Pool C and will open against Namibia on December 1, followed by matches against Germany on December 3 and Ireland on December 5. The top teams from each pool will progress to the knockout stages to be played from December 7 to 13.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Nidhi, Engil Harsha, Rani Minz; **Defenders:** Manisha, Lalthanlualang, Sakshi Shukla, Puja Sahoo, Nandini;

Midfielders: Sakshi Rana, Ishika, Sunel Topo, Jyoti Singh, Khadem Shileima Chanu, Binima Dhan; **Forwards:** Sonam, Purnima Yadav, Kanika Siwach, Hina Bano, Sukhveer Kaur; **Alternate players:** Priyanka Yadav, Parwati Topno.

India drawn with Japan, Australia and Taiwan in u-20 Women's Asian Cup Finals

India has been drawn with Japan, Australia and Taiwan in Group C of the AFC under-20 Women's Asian Cup Finals in Thailand next year. The draw ceremony was held in Bangkok. Having qualified for the continental showpiece after 20 years, the Young Tigresses will begin their campaign against Japan, followed by Australia and Taiwan. The top two sides from each of the three groups, along with the two best third-placed teams,

J&K inches closer to a historic win after Vanshaj's six-wicket haul

Delhi's batting unit falls like a pack of cards in its second essay; the visiting side ends the penultimate day at 55 for two in pursuit of 179

RANJI TROPHY

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

For the second time in the Elite Group-D Ranji Trophy clash against Jammu & Kashmir at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi's batting unit was guilty of tumbling like nine pins. Having lost its last five wickets for 29 runs to end with a total of 211 in the first innings, Delhi went from 244 for three to 277 all out in the space of 71 deliveries in its second essay on day three. Left-arm spinner Vanshaj Sharma, a 22-year-old from Jammu who has learnt his cricket in Delhi, was responsible for the host's predicament with figures of six for 68 in 16.1 overs on Monday. It has allowed J&K to scent a first-ever victory against Delhi in the history of the First Class competition.

When stumps were called, the visitor was 55 for two in pursuit of a target of 179. For Delhi, the game now hinges on its bowling attack pulling off a miraculous turnaround on Tuesday.



On the charge: Left-arm spinner Vanshaj picked up key wickets for Jammu and Kashmir. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

While Delhi captain Ayush Badoni came to the fore with a 73-ball 72 on the third day, his dismissal with four overs to go for the tea interval prompted a spate of wickets. In the 58th over, when his side had erased a 99-run first-innings deficit and taken its lead to 145 runs, the 25-year-old's sweep against



Vanshaj was in the air long enough for Vivrant Sharma to sprint from long leg and complete a stunning catch diving to his left. It halted Badoni's 107-run association with Ayush Doseja.

Vanshaj went on to run through Delhi's lower-order. With next to no resistance from his partners after Badoni's wicket,

the close of play. **the close of play.** **public entry into the stadium. "We are in touch with the Delhi police and will have additional security in place. We may not allow the spectators to enter,"** said a DDCA official.

The scores:

Delhi – 1st innings: 211.

Jammu & Kashmir – 1st

innings: 310.

Delhi – 2nd innings: Arpit Ran

b Lotra 43, Sanat Sangwan c

Samad b Vanshaj 34, Yash Dhull b

Mushtaq 34, Ayush Badoni c

Vivrant b Vanshaj 72, Ayush

Doseja b Lotra 62, Sumit Mathur c

Samad b Vanshaj 0, Anuj Rawat c

sub (Hassan) b Lotra 16, Hrithik

Shokeen c & b Vanshaj 1,

Simarjeet Singh b Vanshaj 0,

Manan Bhardwaj (not out) 0,

Money Grewal b Vanshaj 1; Extras

(nb-1, b-8, lb-5): 14; Total (in 69.1

overs): 277.

Fall of wickets: 1-86, 2-86, 3-137,

4-244, 5-244, 6-267, 7-270, 8-274,

9-276.

J&K bowling: Nabi 12-1-43-0,

Lotra 23-4-73-3, Mushtaq

10-0-48-1, Vanshaj 16.1-1-68-6,

Sunil 8-1-32-0.

J&K – 2nd innings: Qamran

Iqbal (batting) 32, Shubham

Khajuria b Bhardwaj 8, Vivrant

Sharma b Shokeen 3, Vanshaj

Sharma (batting) 0; Extras (b-12):

12; Total (for two wks. in 15

overs): 55.

Fall of wickets: 1-32, 2-52.

Delhi bowling: Simarjeet

2-0-16-0, Bhardwaj 6-0-17-1,

Shokeen 4-0-8-1, Badoni 3-1-2-0.

Bowling slower was the key as a spinner'

Vivek Krishnan

NEW DELHI

If Jammu & Kashmir goes on to beat Delhi on Tuesday for the first time in the Ranji Trophy, Vanshaj Sharma's six-wicket haul will be fondly remembered. The 22-year-old left-arm spinner's six for 68 on Monday helped his side bowl out the seven-time champion for 277 in its second innings and set up a seemingly straightforward chase of 179 runs.

Interestingly, Delhi's capitulation with the bat on day three came against a bowler who has learnt his trade in the national capital. Vanshaj was born in Jammu, but he moved here in 2011 and trains at the Bal Bhawan International School in Dwarka.

"I practise at Bal Bhawan. Delhi's Yash Dhull and Arpit Rana are my batch mates. I know everyone in the Delhi team well," Vanshaj said.

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A Stead-y hand in the quest to revitalise Andhra

The former NZ head coach emphasises on overall performances rather than titles; he is excited about his new challenge, is also confident of more foreign coaches playing a role in domestic cricket



K.R. DEEPAK

Anirudh Velamuri

Andhra has enjoyed a positive run in the Ranji Trophy's ongoing season so far. After draws with Uttar Pradesh and Baroda, the side pummelled Odisha, winning by an innings and 50 runs.

But, the best was yet to come. An emphatic four-wicket win against Tamil Nadu where Andhra wrapped the game up in three days has the domestic ecosystem talking about one unit needing some long-pending introspection while another seems to be heralding a new dawn.

Andhra's rise has been slow but steady. Putting the blocks together is newly-appointed head coach Gary Stead. Funnily, if both he and the Andhra Cricket Association had their ways, this partnership wouldn't have happened at all.

Stead initially wanted to continue as New Zealand's Test coach, which New Zealand Cricket was not keen on. It named Rob Walter as his successor across formats, pushing him to look for new opportunities.

"I had seven years with the Black Caps and made a decision that I wasn't going to continue in all formats of the game. New Zealand cricket then decided that they wanted a coach to do it all. So it worked out that my time was up, but I was okay with that and understood that it might be that way," he told *The Hindu*.

Stead stayed with coaching, helping Otago, a team based in the country's south. He stepped in to help the side while they hunted for a full-time head coach. It was then that the opportunity to

coach Andhra was put before him.

"I got approached around August. I had an online meeting with a few people from the Andhra Cricket Association. We talked about the opportunities and we agreed that coaching the Ranji Trophy was something that they were prepared to take me on and I'm very grateful for that," he added.

Fortuitous partnership

The ACA wanted an Australian coach who turned down the association, but pointed them in Stead's direction instead.

"I wanted to bring someone serious from outside India. I was trying for a few people and one of them, who couldn't join us, suggested that Stead might be available. He gave us the lead and we immediately sent him a request," ACA secretary Sana Satish Babu told *The Hindu*.

"We had two calls to figure out plans and align our goals. That involved Girish Dongre (ACA CEO), too. He was convinced, but his only concern was wanting to go back home for Christmas. We were flexible and he was pleased," Satish said.

If the ACA ever had any doubts about how Stead would fit in, they would have been abated when Stead dove right into his meticulous homework done on the outfit and the setup, long before he was officially appointed.

"Gary took us by surprise. He has some friends in Mumbai, at Kolkata Knight Riders and other places. He took all the Andhra players' analysis from them, not only Ranji players but also the under-19 and under-23 players. He took all the analysis and studied them during the negotiation time. That pleasantly surprised us and showed us that he was not speaking with us of formality."

For all the talk of Stead taking a 'step down' in his career, the excitement and eagerness in his voice about turning

around Andhra's fortunes tell a different tale. "I love cricket in India. I love the way it's played and the difference in terms of pitches, compared to New Zealand. I thought this is a great way for me to get out of my comfort zone as well, because I've coached in New Zealand my whole life," Stead said.

He is confident that he will not be the last foreign coach to try his hand on the Indian domestic circuit, just as he is not the first to do so - the likes of Dav Whatmore, Michael Bevan, Intikhab Alam, Darren Holder and Alvin Kallicharan having produced varied results over the years.

The 53-year-old is also aware that he will have to adjust to his players as much as they are adjusting to his methods.

"This is an opportunity for me to grow. I'm coming into a different environment now, so as much as there are things that I think will work, I also have to adapt to the culture of the Indian people and the Andhra Cricket Association as well. It

works both ways," he admitted.

"Coaching is about trying to get the best out of the players and help them develop. That is the same here as it was in New Zealand. I think the differences are obviously the cultural aspect, very different from the Western world that I lived in, compared to the Indian culture of cricket and how it's almost a religion here."

In a country teeming with talent and opportunities sparse to come by, Stead is aware of how important performances on the domestic front are for Indian cricketers.

"I think one of the tough things for an Indian cricketer is actually getting noticed, and being noticed by the right people. There are so many good players here and that's just a population thing as well. I'm sure there are thousands of cricketers here who haven't been given an opportunity, who are outstanding cricketers and they haven't been noticed because they haven't been in the right place at the right time," he said.

Stead worked with a large squad of 31 before the Ranji Trophy's playing squad was announced, commuting between Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram to stay on top of things.

"I think there's a good mix of different bowlers, different varieties, left-armers, right-armers, good pacers and spinners as well. And I think there are some really exciting batsmen as well. You know who the leaders of the group are: KS Bharat and Ricky Bhui, but I guess Shaikh Rasheed as well... he's recently been with the Rest of India XI, so they're probably the most well-known ones."

"But there are several guys who have played IPL: Prithvi Raj Yarra and Satyendra Raju for example. They have some experience at higher levels. We will be leaning on some of these characters this season," he added. Incidentally, Rashid and Prithvi Raj played crucial roles in Andhra's takedown of TN in Visakhapatnam. Stead's long-term targets are all about overall improvement in performance, both for the team and for each player individually. Silverware would be a bonus, but not something he is necessarily targeting this season.

"I don't look at it like there's a whole lot of expectations from me. I know the team wants to improve on how they've done in the past and I want them to do as well as they can. My job is to try and help the team adapt, to understand what the situations are and then to give them the confidence to go out and attack the game," he stated.

Building a reputation

"I want all players to feel like they're improving their games. I want Andhra to start being talked about by other teams as a team that is very, very good. If results come our way, well and good. You obviously have some big states here in India that have done well in the past, your Mumbais, Karnatakas etc. I see no reason

why Andhra can't be talked about in the same breath and that's what I'd like to get in the long run for this team."

Conversations with players in the Andhra Ranji team shed some light on how Stead likes to operate. His emphasis is on the team doing well, with individual performances not being judged purely by statistics. He has repeatedly spoken to his bowling unit about hunting in packs, explaining that the pressure built by a pair could bear fruit for those who follow.

In his quest to change Andhra's fortunes, Stead has put in rules to ensure that nothing derails his plans, including injuries and suspensions.

"Fifteen people will go for Ranji matches. There are five standbys. He said every other player should be in the Vizianagaram camp. He has given our coaches the agenda for the upcoming weeks. He said that if one selected player is unavailable, for whatever reason, he wants to pick someone who is in the camp, not a player who is sitting at home relaxing," Satish revealed. Stead has also worked with coaches back in New Zealand as coach development manager and sees value in transferring those experiences here too.

"I was still playing at the time, so I guess I tried to bring a number of current happenings which was going on in the First Class scene in New Zealand and make sure our coaches were up to speed with the current game as well. There'd been a bit of a gap at New Zealand Cricket for a while around their Level 3 course, so I helped to redevelop that and, I guess, bring in a little bit more professionalism along with some ideas, not necessarily about playing the game, but around the game as well, planning, periodisation, coaching process, things like that. So that was interesting."

Meanwhile, Stead - whose heart still beats for the Kiwi cricket ecosystem - has found a way to stay connected to the workings of the sport back home. In September, he was signed on as a high-performance coach tasked with supporting player and coach development and overseeing high-performance programmes within the ambit of New Zealand Cricket.

The 'part-time' gig, as he calls it, will let him continue to contribute to the cricket ecosystem in his country and not something that will require him to divide his attention and resources between two entities. "My new role is a part-time thing. I'm there to help support the first-class players and coaches when I'm back in New Zealand, but also to probably oversee the New Zealand A program a little bit more and the players that are coming in," he explained.

"That could be across men and women as well. It's exciting for me that there is still that opportunity to give back to New Zealand. It's been a huge part of my life for the last 30 years, when you consider coaching and playing. To be able to still have a connection there is great for me."

THE GIST

Andhra's rise has been slow but steady. Putting the blocks together is newly-appointed head coach Gary Stead

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SCIENCE

Textbook update due? Altermagnetism emerges as new class of magnetic order

The discovery of altermagnetism as a distinct form of magnetism represents a step forward in physicists' understanding of the magnetic world; it adds an option to ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism, introducing a well-defined magnetic phase with a distinctive combination of properties

Vasudevan Mukunth

For well over a century, our understanding of the magnetic world had been neatly compartmentalised into two categories: ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism. Ferromagnetism, which is the familiar force that pins a souvenir magnet to a refrigerator door, arises because many small, atom-scale magnetic moments are aligned in parallel, creating a strong, external magnetic field. Antiferromagnetism, its more elusive counterpart, features alternating magnetic moments that cancel each other out, resulting in no net external magnetic field.

This simple dichotomy provided the foundation for countless technological advances, including most famously the hard disk drive. However, in recent years, researchers have identified a third and distinct form of magnetism that extends beyond this longstanding binary classification. Scientists call it altermagnetism. First formulated around 2019 and supported by important experiments in 2024, altermagnetism is drawing strong interest for possible applications in spintronics and quantum technologies.

Complex world

You can think of altermagnetism as a third kind of magnetism in which rotating or mirror-flipping the crystal pattern matches sites in cancelling pairs, leaving no net magnetisation – thus bridging the gap between its two well-known magnetic cousins. At a macroscopic level, altermagnetic materials behave like antiferromagnets. Their neighbouring magnetic moments are antiparallel (meaning if one moment is pointing 'up', its neighbour is pointing 'down') – and they're arranged in a way that their individual magnetic fields cancel each other out. As a result, an altermagnet, much like an antiferromagnet, produces no external magnetic field. This property makes an altermagnet less susceptible to external magnetic disturbances and prevents interference between closely packed components in electronic devices.

This absence of a net magnetic moment is a crucial feature because it could enable a new generation of dense and stable technologies. Yet beneath this magnetically silent exterior lies a world of surprising complexity. While their external magnetic presence is nullified, altermagnets possess an internal electronic structure that is reminiscent of ferromagnets. This duality is the cornerstone of their potential and what sets them apart as a new class of magnetic order.

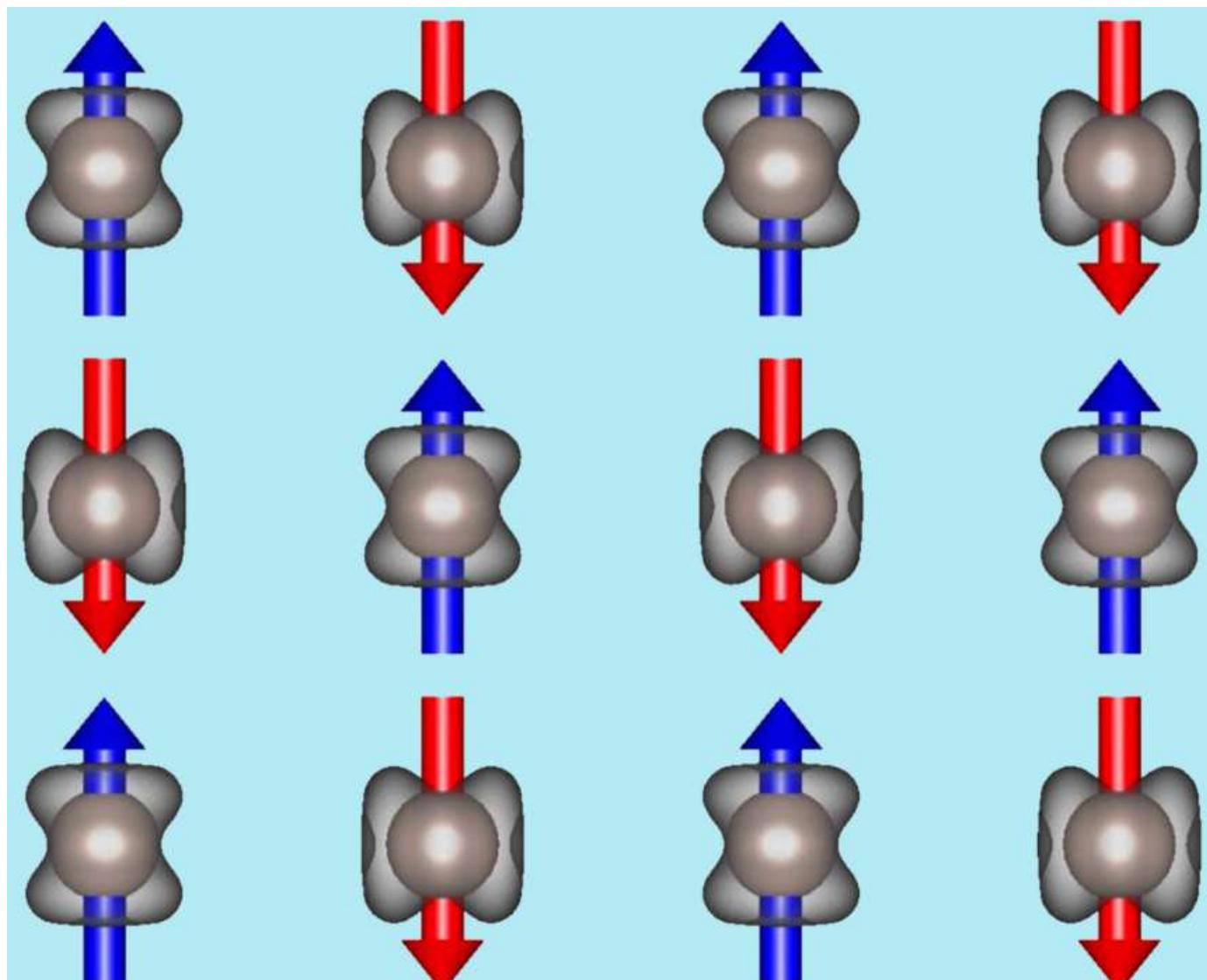
The secret to this seemingly paradoxical behaviour lies in the interplay of the material's crystal structure and the spin of its electrons. An electron's spin is an intrinsic quantum property, just like its charge. Because the electron is a charged particle, this intrinsic spin causes it to act like a small magnet. The magnetic moment is the term for that resulting magnetism: it quantifies the strength and direction of the magnetic field generated by the electron's spin.

In conventional antiferromagnets, the oppositely aligned spins are typically related by simple symmetry operations like inversion or translation. This pattern often forces 'spin up' and 'spin down' electrons to have the same energy in many directions.

Spin up, spin down

In fact, to really appreciate the novelty of altermagnetism, it's important to visualise the arrangement of atoms within these materials. Imagine a crystal as a perfectly ordered, three-dimensional wallpaper pattern, where each repeating element is an atom. In conventional antiferromagnets, the relationship between an atom with an upward-pointing magnetic moment ('spin up') and its neighbor with a downward-pointing moment ('spin down') is typically straightforward. One can be transformed into the other by a simple shift, known as a translation – like moving from one identical flower to the next on a wallpaper roll.

However, the atomic arrangement in altermagnets follows a different rule. Here, the atoms with opposing magnetic spins are connected by more complex symmetry operations, such as being rotated into place or reflected across a mirror plane. In simple terms, instead of a shift, a turn or a mirror-flip would map a 'spin up' site to a 'spin down' site. (Here, 'operations' just means simple moves you can perform on the crystal, like shift it, turn it around, flip it in a mirror, or reversing time, that line up one part of the pattern with another and



In altermagnetic materials, atoms form a regular pattern with their spin and spatial orientation alternating on the neighbouring magnetic sites in the crystal. LIBOR ŠMEJKAL (CC BY-SA)



Hard disk drives store data in a thin ferromagnetic layer on the platters, where small domains are magnetised one way or the other to encode bits. The write head, an electromagnet, flips these domains while the read head detects their magnetic orientation. WILLIAM WARBY/UNSPLASH

determine what the electrons are allowed to do.)

This arrangement achieves two seemingly contradictory goals. First, it preserves the overall magnetic neutrality that's characteristic of antiferromagnets. Because the rotation or reflection is part of the repeating crystal pattern, for every 'spin up' magnetic moment, there's a matching 'spin down' moment. When viewed from the outside, these opposing moments cancel, so there is no net external magnetic field. On the other hand, the same 'twist' in the pattern creates an unusual setting for the electrons moving in the material.

Studies published on November 6 proposed two new ways to probe the hidden magnetic structure of altermagnets using circularly polarised X-rays. The techniques are predicted to distinguish the two distinct groups of atoms with opposing spins, allowing scientists to directly measure their individual magnetic moments.

The implications of altermagnetism are encouraging. Spintronics, which uses electron spin as well as charge to store and process information, may benefit first. Today's spintronic parts often use ferromagnets, whose stray fields can limit how tightly parts can be packed. Altermagnets, with zero net magnetisation, can reduce such stray-field problems and may help designs that aim for smaller, faster, more energy-efficient memory and logic. Their spins can switch very fast – up to trillions of times per second – but real device speedups have yet to be demonstrated.

This high-speed potential stems from the nature of the magnetic ordering. In altermagnets, the spin dynamics are governed by exchange interactions that can operate on picosecond or even sub-picosecond timescales. This intrinsic property allows for potential switching speeds in the terahertz (THz) range, which is theoretically up to a thousand-times faster than the gigahertz (GHz) speeds that are typical for current ferromagnetic components. Achieving this in practical devices remains a long-term goal but it highlights the fundamental performance advantages that altermagnetic materials could offer.

Close encounters

The journey to show altermagnetism in the lab needed new tools. Since altermagnets don't make an external magnetic field, traditional magnetometers are not the best way to see them. Instead, scientists used methods that look straight at the electrons' energies and patterns. One important step came in early 2024 with manganese telluride (MnTe), once treated as a standard antiferromagnet. Using angle-resolved photoemission

While their external magnetic presence is nullified, altermagnets possess an internal electronic structure that is reminiscent of ferromagnets. This duality is the cornerstone of their potential and sets them apart as a new class of magnetic order

spectroscopy (ARPES) – which shines light on a surface and measures the energies of electrons that come out – researchers saw the expected spin-splitting of the bands. This supported the existence of altermagnetism. Further work with X-ray magnetic dichroism, an X-ray method that changes with magnetic direction, imaged tiny magnetic patterns and showed they can be formed in thin films on purpose.

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Anomalous Hall effect

Beyond spintronics, scientists are also exploring possible links to quantum computing. The absence of stray magnetic fields in altermagnets can lower some kinds of magnetic noise in test devices. Scientists are still figuring out how they work alongside superconductors, to be fair.

Further yet, the discovery that altermagnetism can show up in a wide range of materials – including insulators,

semiconductors, and metals – opens up many options for materials design. Some early studies even look at organic crystals, but this line of work is still exploratory.

The theoretical framework behind altermagnetism is simple: if you imagine running time backward, magnets usually don't look the same. That is true for both ferromagnets and antiferromagnets. Even so, many antiferromagnets keep a pairing rule with the crystal pattern that still forces 'spin up' and 'spin up' to match in many directions. Altermagnets break that matching while keeping zero overall magnetisation.

In some altermagnets, the crystal rules even allow a sideways voltage when a current flows through it; this is known as the anomalous Hall effect. And the significance of the anomalous Hall effect is that it provides a straightforward electrical method to 'read' the material's magnetic state. Conventional antiferromagnets typically lack this effect, making their states difficult to detect with simple electronics. This property gives altermagnets a notable advantage for potential device integration.

Finally, computer searches have suggested many possible altermagnetic materials, giving scientists a long list to test in experiments.

Good signs

The exploration of altermagnetism is still in its infancy and many challenges remain. The synthesis of high-quality, single-domain altermagnetic materials is a crucial hurdle that needs to be overcome for their practical application. Besides manganese telluride, another widely studied material is ruthenium dioxide (RuO_2), which has also been central in demonstrating certain altermagnetic effects. A significant practical issue is that these materials often form with many small magnetic regions, or domains, where the alternating spin pattern is oriented differently. For a device to function reliably, it typically requires a single, well-ordered domain. Learning how to control the growth of these materials to eliminate such domain boundaries is therefore a central focus of current research.

Developing scalable and cost-effective fabrication techniques will also be essential to integrate them into commercial devices. However, the rapid pace of discovery and the intense interest from the scientific community are good signs that steady work can tackle these problems.

Taken together, the discovery of altermagnetism represents a step forward in physicists' understanding of the magnetic world. It adds a new option to ferromagnetism and antiferromagnetism, introducing a well-defined magnetic phase with a distinctive combination of properties. Because they keep zero net magnetisation yet still split spins in the bands, altermagnets could lead to faster, smaller, and more energy-efficient technologies.

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Kosim Uddin, 50, purchases fish on an island in the Brahmaputra River, his new home, after he was forced to move due to erosion, in Kurigram, Bangladesh, on October 29, 2025. REUTERS

Brahmaputra, Teesta rivers eroding land faster than ever in Bangladesh

Reuters

On an overcast morning, Nurun Nabi, 50, loads bamboo poles and tin sheets onto a wooden boat. His home, built just a year ago on a fragile island in the Brahmaputra River, is on the verge of being swallowed by water. It is the second time the farmer and father of four has had to move in a year.

He has no choice but to move to another char, a temporary island formed by river sediment. His rice and lentil fields are already gone, claimed by the advancing current of the Brahmaputra, which originates in the Himalayas and flows through China and India before reaching Bangladesh.

"I don't know what awaits us there in the new home," he said, looking towards the wide brown river.

Every year, hundreds of families in northern Bangladesh's Kurigram district face the same fate. As riverbanks collapse, people lose not only their homes but also their land, crops, and livestock. The Brahmaputra, Teesta, and Dharla rivers, have become unpredictable, eroding land faster than ever before.

The chars are among the most fragile places in Bangladesh. Families rebuild again and again, only for the river to take everything they have.

The events in Kurigram are climate change made visible, as the melting of the glaciers that feed the rivers accelerates

As the world's eyes turn to Brazil, the host of the U.N. climate summit from November 10 to 21, Bangladesh's struggle offers a sobering message. The country is often praised as a model of resilience – building embankments, forecasting floods, and pioneering community-based adaptation. But without stronger international support and climate finance, those efforts will fall short.

The events in Kurigram are climate change made visible, as the melting of the Himalayan glaciers that feed the Brahmaputra and Teesta rivers accelerates. The monsoon has also grown more erratic: arriving earlier, lasting longer, and falling in intense, sudden bursts.

The World Bank estimates one in every seven Bangladeshis could be displaced by climate-related disasters by 2050.

Women carry much of the burden of the constant displacement. Shahina Begum, 30, a mother of two, recalled standing in waist-deep water as she cooked for her family during floods last year.

"We moved six times in 10 years," she said. "Every time we start again, the river takes it back."

"It is even more difficult for women and adolescent girls," she added. "We have to find dry ground, cook, take care of children, and there is no privacy or safety."

On Kheyar Alga Char, about 300 families have managed to stay put for three years after local groups installed geobags, large sand-filled sacks that strengthen riverbanks against erosion.

"Geobags have made a huge difference," said Johurul Islam, 39, who lost his home more than 10 times before settling here. "For the last three years, the river didn't take our land. For the first time, I feel a little confident about the future."

Local NGOs are also helping to build raised villages: clusters of homes elevated above the ground to withstand seasonal floods.

Around Johurul Islam, children played on solid ground, their laughter carried by the evening wind. "This time, we'll be ready. For now, the land is holding – and so are we."

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